

Our ref: 12/1353

16 October 2012

RE: Request for Information

Thank you for your e-mail of 21 September requesting:

1. Copies of all correspondence between DECC – including all DECC Ministers, employees and advisers – and any local authorities – including all councillors, officers and advisers – dated between January 1 2012 and September 21 2012 relating to proposals for an Expression of Interest in hosting a geological disposal facility (GDF) for nuclear waste and EXCLUDING correspondence with Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria County Council, West Cumbria MRWS and Shepway District Council.
2. Copies of all internal correspondence between DECC ministers, employees and advisers relating to said proposals and dated to the same period.

Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

After carrying out a search of our records I can confirm that DECC does not hold any information falling within the scope of your request.

For your information, to date, three communities in west Cumbria have made a formal Expression of Interest in discussions with Government on the possibility of hosting a GDF. As I am sure you are aware, the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) process adopts a voluntarism and partnership approach. The Government has written to all local authorities in England and Wales inviting them to find out more about the MRWS process and this invitation remains open. DECC has attended Local Government Association annual conferences, engaged with delegates on an informal basis and given presentations to a range of audiences to explain the MRWS process and emphasise the opportunity for communities to express an interest. DECC officials remain ready to meet any interested community that wishes to find out more about the site selection process.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the DECC Information Rights Unit (foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,