

**Department of
Energy & Climate
Change**
3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
www.decc.gov.uk

Our ref. **12/1317**

26 September 2012

Dear

**Re: Request for information about a document included in FOI disclosure
12/1124**

Thank you for your email request for information which was received by the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) on 14 September 2012. Your request was for the following information:

"Your recent FOI disclosure 12/1124 ("A request for 39 documents") contains a document entitled "Microsoft Word - 01DEC639 COMMUNICATING CLIMATE SCIENCE (P).pdf".

Please send me the material which has been redacted from this document prior to the mention of "George Mombiot" (sic).

Please let me know on what legal basis under the FOI Act it was redacted from this disclosure, and send me a copy of the explanation (including any public interest test) which was provided to the requester.

Please also let me know the name and post of the person who delivered this presentation and the occasion and date on which it was delivered."

We have considered your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) as the information you have sought disclosure does not, in our view, fall within the definition of "environmental information" as stated in the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). The original request to which you refer was dealt with under the EIRs.

The words 'the saintly' were originally redacted from the copy of the document (Ref. 01DEC639) that was released in the response to FOI 12/1124 as they were considered to be the personal view of the speaker, and therefore excepted from disclosure under Regulation 12 (3) of the EIRs which relate to "personal data". The

covering response letter to 12/1124 included a reference to this effect, however, no further explanation was provided, and this could have been made clearer.

As the document comprised speaking notes for use with a presentation on communicating climate science, the decision to redact the wording was made on the basis that, in printed form, the comment could have been misconstrued in the absence of the speaker's intonation. On reflection, however, it is considered that this approach was erring on the side of caution, and there would be no breach of the data protection principles in providing you with that information now. The unredacted version of the document will be published against the original request.

The presentation was delivered by Dr Nafees Meah, (then) Head of Science in DECC, at an internal meeting in June 2010. Dr Meah also used some of its content for a presentation he gave at a Circle-2, external workshop held in November 2010, on 'Dealing with Uncertainties in Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation Research'.

Appeal Procedure

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 two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the **Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)** (foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk), Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

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

If you do request an internal review and are not content with its outcome, 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.

I hope this letter is of help to you.

Yours sincerely