



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW

www.decc.gov.uk

Our ref: FOI 13/1439

7 November 2013

Dear

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 14 October in which you asked the following:

Details of meetings between Ed Miliband, in his position as Secretary of State, and third parties, between October 2008 and May 2010. I would like to know when the meetings took place and which third parties were involved. By third parties I mean non departmental figures including, but not limited to, journalists, academic advisers, representatives from energy companies and charities. This may require a copy of the Ministerial diary.

Details of the number of requests for meetings with the Secretary of State by representatives from the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, between October 2008 and May 2010.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

I can confirm that the Department holds some of the information you have requested. However, the information is already in the public domain and is therefore exempt under Section 21 of the Act as we are not required to provide information which is already reasonably accessible to you. Details of

meetings between external organisations and Department of Energy and Climate Change Ministers for the period October 2009 to May 2010 is available at this link:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130102164008/http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministermtgs.aspx>

With regard to the period October 2008 to September 2009 we can confirm that Ministerial diaries for this period are no longer held and the effort to administer this part of your request would exceed the limit prescribed in Regulations made pursuant to Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This limit is £600 which represents the estimated cost of spending 24 hours in determining whether the Department holds such information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Where the estimated cost is above this limit, we are not obliged to comply with a request.

In order to search for this information we would need to go through many files within our filing structure and email boxes of numerous members of staff to establish whether we hold any records regarding meetings between Mr Miliband and a wide range of external parties on any subject or topic. We estimate that the amount of work required would take us over the limit referred to above. It would be helpful if you could refine your request by providing details as to the information you particularly wish to obtain. This might include being more specific about a particular organisation, date, topic or subject.

With regards to the second part of your request, I have established that Mr Derek Lickorish, Chair, Fuel Poverty Advisory Group wrote to Ed Miliband during October 2008 requesting a meeting. No further information is held in scope of this part of your request.

Appeals 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 (foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk).

Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)
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 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.

Yours sincerely