



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

REDACTED

www.gov.uk/decc

Email: REDACTED

Our ref: FOI2015/14858

17 August 2015

Dear REDACTED

I refer to your e-mail of 16 July in which you asked:

Please can you provide me with a copy of all correspondence between senior management of OUGO and OGA and the Task Force on Shale Gas from 1 January 2015 to present day.

Your request is being considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs') on the basis that the information you have sought disclosure of, does in our view, fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in the EIRs.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the Department holds information falling within the terms of your request. Some of the information relating to personal data has been withheld under Regulation 13(1) of the EIRs. Redacted copies of information are attached to this letter under **Annex A**.

The two attachments under **Annex A** are available at the following website:

- Task Force on Shale Gas, First Interim Report: Planning, Regulation, and Local Engagement: <https://www.taskforceonshalegas.uk/reports/first-interim-report>
- Task Force on Shale Gas, Second Interim Report: Assessing the Impact of Shale Gas on the Local Environment and Health: <https://www.taskforceonshalegas.uk/reports/assessing-the-impact-of-shale-gas-on->

[the-local-environment-and-health](#)

Regulation 13(1) of the EIRs – relates to personal data

Some of the information constitutes personal data and has been withheld. Regulation 13(1) of the EIRs provides an absolute exception for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act (DPA).

Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed under the data protection principles. In particular, the first data protection principle requires that disclosure must be fair and lawful and must comply with one of the conditions in Schedule 2 of the DPA. We do not think it is fair to release the names and contact details of DECC staff below Senior Civil Service level, or staff in other organisations, and do not think that any of the relevant conditions in Schedule 2 of the DPA apply. As a result, the names and contact details of staff in DECC below Senior Civil Service level and staff in other organisations have been redacted from your copy of this information.

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 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to the Information Rights Unit at:

Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

E-mail: foi.requests@decc.gsi.gov.uk.

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

Yours sincerely

Office of Unconventional Gas and Oil