



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW

www.gov.uk/decc

Ref: 14/0555

30 April 2014

Thank you for your email of 31st March 2014 where you requested the following information:

- **Evidence submitted to DECC's Community Energy Strategy call for evidence (June-Aug 2013, https://econsultation.decc.gov.uk/decc-policy/community-energy-call-for-evidence/consult_view) by the Big Six utilities (Centrica/British Gas, SSE, RWE NPower, EOn, EDF, Scottish Power).**
- **The original call for evidence stated, "It is intended that responses to this Call for Evidence may be made public." It does not appear that responses have been made public - apologies if they have, and if you can share the link, that would be hugely appreciated.**

We have considered your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) as the information you have sought disclosure of, does in our view, fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in the EIRs.

I can confirm the Department holds information in scope of your request. However, Centrica/British Gas did not submit a response to the aforementioned call for evidence and some of the information you have requested is available on these websites:

SSE: <http://sse.com/community/servingourcommunities/>

RWE NPower: <http://www.npowermediacentre.com/Press-releases/RWE-UK-response-to-Community-Energy-Call-for-Evidence-1355.aspx>

Other information, not available online, from E.On, EDF and Scottish Power is attached.

Some information constitutes personal data and has been withheld. Regulation 13(1) of the EIRs provides an absolute exemption for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act. Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed in accordance with 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 Data Protection Act. We do not think that it is fair to release the names of junior members of staff or third parties and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.

The Community Energy Strategy, accessible here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-energy-strategy>, is the Government's formal response to the Community Energy call for evidence and other research and analysis

conducted on the benefits, barriers and opportunities of community energy. We have not published the individual or organisational responses to the call for evidence.

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
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
E-mail: foi.requests@bis.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

Yours sincerely,

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