



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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██████████
████████████████████

Our ref: RFI 7552
21 July 2015

Dear ██████████

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: an un-redacted copy of the draft shale gas rural economy impacts paper and specified related correspondence

Thank you for your request for:

1. an unredacted copy of the draft Shale Gas Rural Economy Impacts paper
2. a copy of the email and all attachments sent to named individuals at the Environment Agency regarding the Defra report dated 9 May 2014.
3. all correspondence regarding the Defra organised meetings held on the 14/05/14 & 16/07/14 to discuss the 'report(s)' mentioned In Questions 1 & 2 above.

You requested attendance lists, email invites, agendas, meeting minutes, meeting notes, all email correspondence, power point presentations, information hand-outs, papers, reports, letters, faxes, memos, photos, maps and the like.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Following careful consideration, we have decided not to disclose some of this information.

The information which can be disclosed is:

1. The unredacted draft Shale Gas Rural Economy Impacts paper, which is available on GOV.UK at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-shale-gas-rural-economy-impacts-paper>
2. **Agenda for the Shale gas domestic actions project monthly meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2014.** This was an attachment to the email you have quoted at 2



above. The only other attachment was a copy of the draft Shale Gas Rural Economy Impacts paper, which is mentioned in the preceding bullet.

3. The text of the e-mail requested at 2.

The names of two junior officials, and in one case the job title of an individual, have been redacted from the agenda. The name of the sender of the email, the recipients and the meeting attendees are also being withheld.

This information has been withheld under sections 40(2) and 40(3)(a)(i) (personal data relating to persons other than the requester) of the FOIA, as the information constitutes personal data relating to persons other than the applicant. Sections 40(2) and 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOIA provide that personal data relating to other persons is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 to the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data. Disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data because the author was not a public facing officer and would not reasonably have expected his name to be made public. In the case of the job title, disclosure would identify the individual in question and would result in a living individual who was working at a junior grade in a non-public facing role becoming personally identified with this area of work, and may result in approaches being made to them.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information that you have requested at 3 is not held by Defra. We have no record of Defra organised meetings held on either the 14 May 2014 or the 16 July 2014 to discuss the draft Rural Economy Impacts paper.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely,


Information Rights Team
InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

Annex B

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to [REDACTED] Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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