



Your ref:
Our ref: EIR 13/0099

13 February 2013

RE: Carbon Saving Statistics for Sheffield

Thank you for your email dated 18 January requesting details of CESP funding within Sheffield.

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

As I indicated in response to an earlier request that you submitted on 20 May 2012, DECC does not hold the information you have requested.

CESP closed on 31 December 2012, but under the scheme, energy suppliers were required to report details of schemes and measures installed to the regulator, Ofgem. . Ofgem reports on supplier progress against CESP targets and details are published on their website at <http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/EnergyEff/cesp/Pages/cesp.aspx>.

Whilst Ofgem are responsible for approving individual schemes, they do not hold powers under the enabling legislation to collect details of the amount of subsidy paid by energy suppliers and generators towards individual projects. This is a commercial matter between individual suppliers and their contractors. Neither does Government hold this information.

CESP has not been extended. A new obligation, the Energy Company Obligation, came into effect on 1 January ensuring that there was no hiatus in the installation of energy efficiency measures. ECO has three different sub-targets namely, Affordable Warmth, Carbon and Community Energy Saving and will focus primarily on providing extra help towards the cost of installing solid wall and hard-to-treat cavity wall insulation. ECO will run alongside and support the Green Deal which commenced on 29 January 2013.

You also ask about Sheffield's carbon reduction target. I am advised that there is no central Government target set for Sheffield, so you would be advised to address your request to Sheffield City Council <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/>.

Lastly, you ask about the number of Green Deal assessments undertaken in Sheffield and nationwide. We are unable to publish information at this point, as it is still in the course of development. However, the intention is to publish this information soon on the Gov.UK website. Therefore, this information is being withheld as we consider it to be exempt from disclosure under regulation 12(4)(d) (outlined below) of the EIRs because it relates to incomplete data.

*12 (4) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a), a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that—
(d) the request relates to material which is still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data;*

Regulation 12 exceptions are subject to the public interest test. In considering the public interest, we have weighed up:

- whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption is greater than the public interest in providing the information, versus
- the timing of the release of the information where the planned date of publication is near in the future

Accordingly we have considered the public interest test in respect of this information and we have applied a presumption in favour of disclosure as required by regulation 12(2) of the EIRs. In taking this decision we have recognised the public interest in disclosure of the information and acknowledge that there may be some interest in that information being available sooner. However, it is not in the public interest if information is released prematurely and out of context. Releasing information prematurely and without the benefit of the necessary analysis or consideration has the potential to mislead the public. This could create the burden of additional and unnecessary administration, and more importantly, mismanagement of the flow of information. It is in the public interest to ensure that information is managed effectively. On this basis, it is not in the public interest to release the information that you have requested at this time.

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 DECC Information Rights Unit (foi@decc.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.