

**Department of Energy & Climate
Change**

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Ref No: **14/0509**

8th May 2014

Provision of requested information

Thank you for your email of 11th March 2014 where you requested the following information:

“Where have you told the public about Geoengineering and the detrimental effects on their lives and health through spraying highly dangerous particles into the sky ? I would like to know under the FOI Act just where this has happened.

What documents were made public, What Newspapers carried this information and what TV channels broadcast this vital information. Plus what information about HAARP have you put into the public domain ?”

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

On the question about where we have told the public about geoengineering, the Government’s view on geoengineering research is published on the Government website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/geo-engineering-research-the-government-s-view>.

Potential geoengineering techniques, including those termed as solar radiation management- such as stratospheric aerosol spraying, are described in detail in a Royal Society report published in 2009¹. However, no solar radiation management programme exists in the UK and DECC has no knowledge of any spraying of particles in the sky. The trails that are seen in the sky are aircraft contrails. These points were confirmed in the DECC response to a previous FOI request on this subject area, which is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/geo-engineering-programmes>.

¹ The Royal Society, 2009. *Geoengineering the climate: science, governance and uncertainty*. <https://royalsociety.org/policy/publications/2009/geoengineering-climate/>



Regarding what information DECC has put into the public domain about HAARP (the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Programme), a search of our record system identified three correspondence replies to members of the public who have previously enquired about HAARP. Redacted copies of those replies are appended to this letter, separately.

Note on redactions

In the documents that are released personal data concerning certain government officials and some other third party individuals have been redacted in accordance with Regulations 12(3) and 13 of the EIRs and Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act (to the extent that the information requested is not environmental). These EIR regulations and section 40 provide an exemption for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998. 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 DPA. We consider that to disclose the names and contact details of officials and third party individuals within the released documents would contravene one or more of those data protection principles.

The definition of personal information to which regulation 12(3) & 13 and section 40 applies is wide and can include references to identifiable individuals. Our view is that the release of the names and contact details would not be fair and none of the conditions of Schedule 2 are met.

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

Science Team, DECC

