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**www.decc.gov.uk**

Our ref: **12/1392**

8 November 2012

Dear

**Re: Request for Information on Briefings or Submissions Related to Arctic Sea Ice**

Thank you for your email correspondence received by the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) on 1 October 2012, in which you requested specific information about briefings or submissions provided to DECC Ministers earlier this year.

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.

DECC has the following obligations under the EIRs:

- to confirm whether the Department holds the information requested, and
- to provide that information (subject to any exceptions which may apply).

We have provided information in response to the following request:

1. *Briefings or submissions from DECC's CEOSA (Climate, Energy and Ozone Science and Analysis) team to Ministers that are on the subject of or contain the following phrases:*

*"Arctic sea ice"*

*For the dates: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 inclusive.*

2. *A list of all briefings or submissions to the Secretary of State containing the phrases and within the dates specified in (1).*

The search term 'Arctic sea ice' was used to search DECC's records management system (Matrix) by document content, covering the time period you specified.

The briefings and submission identified by this search, for (1) and (2), are listed in the appended table, which gives the reference number, document title and date created for each of the documents. A total of four briefing documents from the Climate and Energy: Science and Analysis (CESA; formerly CEOSA) team to DECC Ministers, and seven other briefing documents and one submission sent to the Secretary of State, were identified.

Copies of the four briefing documents identified under (1) are provided with this response. Some personal data have been redacted in two of them.

Personal data concerning individuals has been redacted in accordance with Regulation 12(3) of the EIRs. Regulation 12(3) provides an absolute exemption for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act 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 Data Protection Act. We consider that to disclose these individual names would contravene one or more of those data protection principles. The definition of personal information to which Regulation 12(3) applies is wide and can include references to identifiable individuals. Our view is that the release of the names would not be fair and none of the conditions of Schedule 2 are met.

#### Appeal Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Under Regulation 11(2) of the EIRs a request for an internal review should be submitted no later than 40 working days after the date of this letter and should be addressed to the **Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)** ([foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk)), Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

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

If you do request an internal review and are not content with its outcome, 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

## Annex

**Table 1. Briefings and Submissions to DECC Ministers Identified from a Document Content Search of the DECC Records Management System (Matrix), using 'Arctic sea ice' as a Search Term, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

Record number	Record title	Date created
<b>1. Briefings/Submissions to Ministers on Arctic sea ice</b>		
1	D11/1876107 DECC Topical Orals - Climate Science Key Facts - Updates from October 2011 onwards	Updated on 09/07/2012
2	D12/909328 Climate Science - Top Lines and Key Facts - 1 pager	10/07/2012
3	D12/1140478 Briefing - 2012 summer Arctic sea-ice minimum will set a new record - 7 September 2012	07/09/2012
4	D12/1166458 DECC Briefing - 14 September 2012 - A better model of the upper atmosphere should improve seasonal weather forecasts - Fereday et al. 2012 Environ. Res. Lett.	14/09/2012
<b>2. Documents to the Secretary of State</b>		
5	D12/877552 Final versions of the briefing packs for ECC Select Committee hearing - Road to UNFCCC - 03 July	02/07/2012
7	D12/934017 DECC Topical Orals Briefs for Thursday, 12 July 2012	09/07/2012
10	D12/955431 ECC Select Committee Hearing 17 July - Briefing 1 of 3	12/07/2012
12	D12/1184222 Submission - alerting Ministers to the Environmental Audit Committee's Report - Protecting the Arctic (embargoed copy) - to be published on 20 September	19/09/2012