

Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW

E: [REDACTED]
www.decc.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
Via e-mail

Ref: FOI 12/0357

3 April 2012

Dear [REDACTED]

1. Thank you for your email of 06 March 2012 where you requested:

"details of correspondence (emails and letters) and meetings (briefing papers, agendas, minutes) between Chris Huhne (and /or his special advisor); Edward Davey (and /or his special advisor); Charles Hendry (and /or his special advisor); Gregory Barker (and /or his special advisor); and Lord Hutton of the Nuclear Industry Association since 1st March 2011 until the present day".

2. We have interpreted your request as referring to all correspondence and meetings between Ministers and Lord Hutton, special advisors and Lord Hutton and Ministers, special advisors and Lord Hutton since 1 March 2011 until the present day.

3. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') . Under the Act , you have the right to:

- know whether we hold information falling within the scope of your request; and;
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

Correspondence between Ministers and their special advisors and Lord Hutton of the Nuclear Industry Association

4. The Department holds information relating to this request and this information is provided at annex A.

5. Some of the information is exempt under section 40(2) of the Act (personal data) as it constitutes personal data the disclosure of which would contravene one or more of the data protection principles. In particular, the first data protection principle requires that disclosure must be fair and lawful. In this case we do not consider that it is fair to release the personal data of Government officials who are not considered to have public facing roles in relation to this information.

Details of meetings between Ministers and their special advisors and Lord Hutton of the Nuclear Industry Association

6. The Department holds information relating to this request in relation to a meeting at which Charles Hendry and Lord Hutton were both present. This information is included at Annex B.
7. Some of the information relating to this request is exempt under section 36(2)(b)(i) and (ii) of the Act because its disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank provision of advice, or would, or would be likely to inhibit the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation.
8. In maintaining reliance on this exemption, we have considered whether the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in maintaining the exemption and withholding the information.
9. We consider that whilst open and transparent governance is in the public interest, enabling greater participation by the public through a deeper understanding of the issues, in particular in relation to the development of nuclear energy policy, in this case the public interest favours maintaining the exemption and withholding the information.
10. In particular there is a need to ensure that Ministers and officials have the space in which to develop their thinking and explore options in communications and discussions without fear that their views will be disclosed to the public. This safe space enables views to be tested and debated which can assist in stakeholder management, which in itself enables more thorough policy development in the public interest.
11. In addition, some of the information is exempt under section 40(2) of the Act (personal data) as it constitutes personal data the disclosure of which would contravene one or more of the data protection principles. In particular, the first data protection principle requires that disclosure must be fair and lawful. In this case we do not consider that it is fair to release the personal data of Government officials and company representatives who are not considered to have public facing roles in relation to this information.
12. By way of background to the disclosed information, you may find it helpful to note that the lunch meeting referred to in the letter of 30/08/11 did not take place, nor did Charles Hendry hold a formal meeting with Lord Hutton at the Party Conference as referred to in the letter of 29/09/11.
13. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review and should contact me to do so using the e-mail address provided at the end of this letter. Please remember to quote the reference number at the beginning of this letter in any future communications.
14. 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,

[Redacted]

Office for Nuclear Development

[Redacted]

Annex A - Correspondence between Ministers and their special advisors and Lord Hutton of the Nuclear Industry Association

Charles Hendry MP
Minister for Energy
Department of Energy and Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2HD

29 July 2010

Dear Charles,

**Energy Choices Conference
Thursday 1 December 2011
Central Hall, Westminster**

I am writing to invite you to make the keynote address at this year's annual *Energy Choices* Conference, which is being held on Thursday 2 December at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. The conference is organised by the Nuclear Industry Association, the trade body for the UK civil nuclear industry.

Energy Choices is firmly established as the premier nuclear event of the year and is run by the industry, for the industry. It is the conference where major announcements are made, progress is evaluated and the year ahead is discussed. With an international audience, high-profile speakers and an extensive range of corporate sponsors, *Energy Choices 2011* will be the culminating event of 2011 for the UK nuclear industry.

As in previous years we are inviting prominent speakers from inside and outside the industry to explore issues relating to energy policy and to the future of nuclear energy and the nuclear industry.

With very significant progress on new build and decommissioning, there are important developments taking place across all areas of the nuclear industry. It would therefore be of enormous interest to hear the Government's views on how the road to new build is progressing, the opportunities for UK plc and the implications of the final Weightman report.

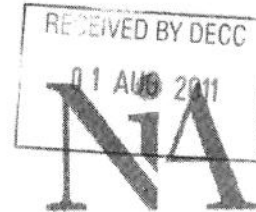
All our previous conferences have been highly successful and attracted large audiences from Parliament, the city, academia, the media, and from across the energy industries.

I hope very much that you will be able to accept, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

Rt. Hon Lord Hutton of Furness



Nuclear Industry Association

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Charles Hendry MP

Minister of State

Department of Energy & Climate Change

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Our ref: IN/2011/14491/RS

The Rt Hon Lord Hutton of Furness
Nuclear Industry Association
22a St James's Square
London
SW1Y 4JH

30 August 2011

Dear John

Thank you for your letter dated 29 July, inviting me to deliver the keynote address at the annual Energy Choices Conference, on 1 December.

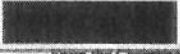
I should be delighted to accept, subject to parliamentary business and I would ask that your office should liaise with my Private Office, on [REDACTED], to make the necessary arrangements.

Perhaps we could meet for lunch before

then?

Best,
Charles

CHARLES HENDRY


FROM THE CHAIRMAN
Rt. Hon Lord Hutton of Furness

12th September 2011

Charles Hendry MP
Minister of State for Energy
Department of Energy and Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2AW

RECEIVED BY DECC

14 SEP 2011



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Website: www.nuclear.org

Dear Charles,

The very substantial progress that the government has made on the facilitative actions for the UK's new nuclear programme means that attention can turn to delivering the 16GW of capacity that is currently proposed, for which the plans of the three development consortia are well advanced.

In addition to the individual projects, the industry recognises the significant challenges facing the programme as a whole, including the interfaces between the projects and limited skills and industrial capacity in a supply chain that is also shared with the existing nuclear estate.

There have therefore been a number of discussions across industry, with the assistance of OND, on how to address these challenges and there is widespread support for a new Programme Management Board which will serve as a forum to identify issues and to explore possible solutions.

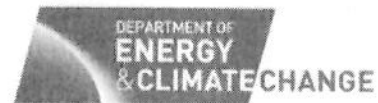
It is intended that the new Board will be led by the development consortia but will also include the technology vendors, the NDA, trades unions and, recognising the importance of its regulatory independence, the ONR. I shall be writing to these groups shortly to invite them to join the Board.

I hope that the Board will work closely with the Nuclear Development Forum and that we can benefit from your support to make it a success.

Yours sincerely



Rt. Hon Lord Hutton of Furness



Charles Hendry MP

Minister of State

Department of Energy & Climate Change

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ps.charles.hendry@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Our ref: PO2011/16784/JH

The Rt Hon Lord Hutton of Furness
Nuclear Industry Association
Carlton House
22a St James's Square
London
SW1Y 4JH

29 September 2011

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter on the proposal for an industry led Board to understand and manage the challenges facing the broader new build programme as a whole.

I'm fully behind this initiative and believe that it is extremely important for the developers and industry as a whole to identify the risks and develop solutions to the issues related to a programme of nuclear new build in order to ensure that they are in a position to deliver 16GW in line with stated ambitions.

I understand that the precise activities of this programme management approach will need to be shaped by the participants but I look forward to hearing how this work is developing. I think that your suggestion of working closely with the Nuclear Development Forum is very sensible and as such would invite you to attend on an ongoing basis to provide your perspective and to report on how all this is progressing.

As you are well aware the Government's approach to facilitating new nuclear has been about removing unnecessary barriers and risk and I see this industry initiative as a further extension of this philosophy. I understand that officials from the OND will also sit on the Board and we will provide support where possible and appropriate. It might also be useful to include representation from the Department for Business who work closely with both the OND and the industry on supply chain development.

In addition, if you would think it appropriate, I would be pleased, subject to Parliamentary business, to attend the first Board, to make clear my support for this initiative in an introductory statement and to hear how initial discussions progress.

I look forward to seeing you at Party Conference next week, when I would be happy to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,



CHARLES HENDRY

Annex B – Information regarding meetings between Ministers and their special advisors and Lord Hutton of the Nuclear Industry Association



**Programme Management Board
At 11.30 at Nuclear Industry Association, Carlton House,
22a St James's Square, London, SW1Y 4JH
on Tuesday 1st November 2011**

AGENDA

1. Chairman's welcome and introductions

2. Comments by Charles Hendry

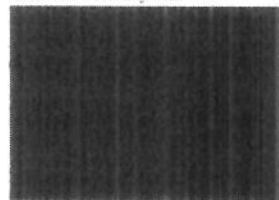
3. Round-table discussion
 - a. Potential scope
 - b. Potential activities
 - c. Composition of Board

4. Next steps

**Minutes of the first meeting of the Programme Management Board,
1st November 2011 held at NIA offices, 22a St James's Square,
London SW1.**

Present:

Lord Hutton of Furness (**Chairman**)
Charles Hendry MP



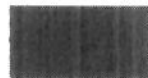
Hergen Hays
Tim Stone



(**Secretary**)

NIA
Minister for Energy, DECC
EdF Energy
Horizon Nuclear Power
NuGeneration Ltd
NuGeneration Ltd
AREVA
Westinghouse
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
ONR
DECC, OND
DECC, OND
BIS
NIA

Observers:



OND
NIA
NIA

Introduction

The Chairman said that nuclear new build presents the largest and most important set of challenges the industry faces. The last time anything broadly comparable was attempted was in the 1960/70's, but that was in a very different environment with a nationalised utility and central direction. To succeed now it is imperative that we establish confidence in the market to incentivise private sector investment.

The successful delivery of Hinkley Point is fundamentally important. This will be achieved by Government and industry making decisions on common ground to support the delivery of that project, and giving confidence to the marketplace for future projects.

The purpose of this group is to explore if there is a meeting point for those common interests, and if there is, how we progress from there. It is not necessary to attempt to define programme management or to be prescriptive about the way forward. NIA can facilitate the process and provide the secretariat, but the direction and decisions are for the Board members to dictate.

Government position

The Minister emphasised that this was the most challenging infrastructure programme the UK is embarked upon, dwarfing any other major projects being planned.

The Government's main objectives are getting Hinkley off the ground, and from there seeing a multiple reactor programme delivered. The priorities are to give confidence to the supply chain to begin preparing themselves now to ensure there is no time lag in terms of delivery, but also to understand the constraints on the supply chain in terms of skills and capability, and



be able to propose specific actions and deliverables to remedy them. Issues must be identified now in order to ensure the progress is not slowed down once building begins.

Re-building the skill-set of the UK workforce is a constraint and up-front planning is essential. This group must identify the pinch points, and plan how to deal with them in practical terms.

Energy demand will increase and the demand for new nuclear may increase beyond the currently proposed 16GW programme, and that will require the continued confidence of energy company shareholders in the UK as a good place to invest.

Discussion

In discussion there was broad agreement that new build can provide significant opportunities for the UK supply chain as well as long-term employment and sustainable careers. There are strengths in the UK supply chain, for example in consultancy and engineering support services. The GDA has been a positive step forward, and there are lessons that can be learned from other projects to assist in delivering new nuclear build.

However, there had been a decline of capability in the UK and the UK nuclear industry had lost its international edge. The main constraints and pinch-points to be addressed, and on which a broad consensus is required across all parties of the need for change and improvement, are:

- Qualification of equipment sourced in an international market to meet UK standards
- On-site construction and supervision
- Productivity in construction
- Quality standards and motivation in the supply chain
- Workforce skills and the complicated and confused provision of training
- Industrial relations.

Consideration of those constraints on the UK had to take into account that between one and three new builds could be taking place simultaneously in around 2020. Tackling these issues could provide benefits across the programme and assist individual projects, while allowing developers to manage their projects without interference in a competitive market.

The regulator wanted to see the industry adopt a co-ordinated approach to tackling the bottlenecks caused by shortcomings in quality, and look in detail at the resource demands across the whole nuclear sector taking account of those in the existing generation, NDA and MOD estates. For its part, the regulator said that site licensing would be integrated with other regulatory activities but would have dedicated resources and not be seen simply as business as usual.

DECC agreed to explore scenario planning to gather evidence to assess workforce and capacity requirements. This would be coordinated with the work of Cogent to develop an updated model of skills requirements, and will allow for scenarios to be explored to identify potential problems.

The Minister said that the government was keen to listen to the industry if there were any issues where government action was required; for example to engage with the Home Office on removing barriers to overseas workers where specific skills were required.

He suggested that this Board talk to the Olympic Delivery Authority about their experience especially of dealing with the logistics and impact on local communities of a large workforce engaged on a long-term major infrastructure project.

Composition of Board and engaging others

The Board agreed on the desirability and need to engage the Trades Unions (while recognising that industrial relations are outside the scope of this Board), the construction and contracting communities, and the skills bodies in taking this initiative forward. However, their representation and engagement could be at a working group level, rather than as full Board members, and it would be important to ensure that whoever represented those interests had the backing of their constituents and could speak and act authoritatively on their behalf. It is important to keep the board at a manageable size in order to ensure we move forward with the project.

Summary and conclusions

The Chairman said there appeared to be enough common ground to take something forward whilst respecting commercial confidences and companies' own relationships with the unions and other interests. The areas of common ground were actions to

- Identify bottle necks
- Address the challenges of equipment qualification
- Reach suitable quality standards and capability in the supply chain
- Ensure quality in on-site construction and supervision
- Improve workforce skills

The Board might also contribute to promoting the contribution of nuclear to job creation and economic growth, and to the development of a national nuclear infrastructure.

Next steps

NIA would prepare proposals on possible ways forward based on the discussions at this meeting for consideration by the Board.

Action NIA

NIA
November 2011
