

Thank you for your email of 24 October 2012 where you made the following request for information:

Information related to the contract carried out by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) under the title 'Work carried out on the Distribution Impacts Model for Policy Scenario Analysis upgrade' (probably 2011), and hereafter referred to as 'the contract'.

- 1. The Terms of Reference under which the CSE worked on the contract*
- 2. Email and paper correspondence between DECC and the CSE on the contract*
- 3. The actual Distribution Impacts Model (and its associated raw data) constructed under the contract*
- 4. The equivalised household expenditure data set employed in the model constructed under the contract*

We have now completed searching for the information you requested.

We have assumed that your request relates to the latest contracted work to upgrade DECC's Distributional Model (carried out in 2011). A copy of the information, which can be disclosed, is enclosed in the format you requested.

The remainder of the information that you requested is exempt under sections 21, 40, 41 and 43 of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld.

Explanations are as follows, taking each request in turn:

1. Attached is DECC's Tender Specification for the DIMPSA upgrade project 2011 which we have assumed to cover the request for a "terms of reference".
2. Email correspondence in relation to the work on the contract has been included but specific information has been redacted because it is either personal information (exempt under section 40 of the FOI act) or technical or methodological information provided to DECC in confidence and constituting a trade secret (exempt under section 41 and 43 of the FOI act, respectively). The information contains CSE's proprietary knowhow and copyrighted materials. Disclosure of such information would prejudice CSE's commercial interests by weakening its position in a competitive environment by revealing information of potential usefulness to its competitors without any recompense to CSE. Having considered the public interest, the Department's decision is therefore to redact this information from this correspondence.
3. The actual Distributional Impacts model and its associated dataset (which we assume is what was meant by "raw data") have not been disclosed because this information is reasonably accessible to you by other means (and is therefore exempt under section 21 of the FOI act). This is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest). In addition, this information constitutes a trade secret (exempt under section 43 of the FOI act whereby disclosure of the information would prejudice CSE's commercial interests by weakening its position in a competitive environment by revealing information of potential usefulness to its

competitors). These items are licensed to DECC on the basis that DECC is not permitted to disclose them to any third parties.

For advice on how to procure/license this information yourselves, please contact CSE directly at:

Centre for Sustainable Energy
3 St Peter's Court
Bedminster Parade
Bristol BS3 4AQ
Tel: 0117 934 1400
Fax: 0117 934 1410
E-mail: info@cse.org.uk

4. The equivalised household expenditure dataset employed in the model constructed under the contract have not been disclosed because the original data from the Living Cost and Food Survey is reasonably accessible to you by other means (and is therefore exempt under section 21 of the FOI act). This is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest). The relevant variables (household expenditure and the OECD equivalisation scale) are available either from the Office for National Statistics directly or more commonly via the UK data archive.¹ To download any data you must register with the Economic and Social Data Service, agree to an End User Licence and provide details of your intended use. Access restrictions may apply to some users/usages and details can be found in the relevant catalogue record.

Any modifications of this dataset for the purpose of using it in the distributional model constructed under the contract constitute CSE's confidential and proprietary intellectual property rights (and are therefore exempt under sections 41 and 43 of the FOI act). Disclosure of this information would prejudice CSE's commercial interests by weakening its position in a competitive environment by revealing information of potential usefulness to its competitors without any recompense to CSE. Having considered the public interest, the Department's decision is therefore to redact this information from this correspondence.

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: 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

¹ Available online at: <http://data-archive.ac.uk/>.