

Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2HD

Your ref:
Our ref: FOI 12/1133

07 August 2012

RE: FOI 12/1133

Dear

Thank you for your correspondence of 01 August 2012. You have requested the following information:

- 1. If there are training courses that DECC staff/officials attend as part of a) their induction or b) ongoing training that are run by or on behalf of energy companies.*
- 2. If so, please provide a list of the companies providing said courses along with information about how many officials have been sent on each course since it became available.*
- 3. What is the cost to DECC for an official to attend each course?*
- 4. Can you provide copies of hand-outs and other course material, such as power point presentations, provided to officials attending each course?*
- 5. What is the reason for sending officials on each course?*
- 6. If there are other courses that DECC staff attend as part of a) their induction or b) ongoing training that are run by or on behalf of other companies and where that training is designed to introduce staff to the work , priorities or policies of those companies, please provide a list of the companies providing said courses. I am not interested in courses run by companies that are training specialists who provide generic training.*

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), in which you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you have requested and;
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

Shell Energy course for Whitehall

1. DECC staff have attend an annual two-day Energy course for Whitehall run by Shell for 30-40 civil servants. This was ongoing training, not part of any induction.

2. Shell have provided the course. In the last two years, 24 members of staff from DECC have attended the course. There were 12 attendees in 2011 and 2012. We do not hold information on this course before 2011.
3. There was no charge for DECC staff to attend the course.
4. Copies of the agendas for 2011 and 2012 have been sent with this response*. DECC does not hold electronic copies of the course material or presentation slides.
5. The course is designed to give mid- to senior-level civil servants an understanding of the energy industry in the UK and internationally. The production of and markets for energy in a carbon constrained world were the main themes. The programme is an opportunity for DECC staff to hear the views of Shell on the oil and gas industry, meet colleagues and counterparts from other government departments and exchange views on the industry and Shell's activities.

Energy Technologies Institute

1. DECC ran an internal two-hour seminar by the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) in 2010. This was ongoing training, not part of any induction.
2. 8 members of DECC staff attended.
3. There was no cost to DECC other than venue hire, approximately £190. The average cost for each official to attend was therefore £24.
4. The presentation for this ETI overview seminar has been sent with this response*. This was the seminar designed to introduce staff to the work, priorities or policies of the ETI.
5. DECC officials attended the seminar in order to better understand the ETI and DECC's role as an ETI member.

Other

6. DECC does not hold any other central records of training courses designed to introduce staff to the work, priorities or policies of other companies. We estimate that to provide details would exceed the limit of £600 provided under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. This represents the estimated cost of spending 3.5 working days: (i) determining whether the department holds the information, and (ii) locating, retrieving and extracting the information. The Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with requests where the estimated cost of complying would exceed this limit.

You may wish to narrow the scope of your request by being more specific about the information you wish to obtain. For example, a list of the organisations for which you require a response. We would be happy to consider whether any revised request could be dealt with within the cost limit.

***Redaction**

Section 40(2) provides an absolute exemption for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act. 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 do not think that it is fair to release the names of staff or third parties and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.

Appeals procedure

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information, you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this email. If you wish to request an internal review, please contact us.

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 Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely