



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

**Department of Energy & Climate Change**

Atholl House

86-88 Guild Street

Aberdeen AB11 6AR

Our ref: EIA 13/0621

14 June 2013

Dear

Thank you for your email dated 15 May 2013 where you requested for the following information:

'Please can you supply activity logs for any and all civilian activities likely to produce underwater sound for the period 13th August to 9th September 2012 and the 17th-24th April 2013? The region we are interested in covers waters to the east of Cape Wrath anticlockwise around the coast to the English border, and from the coast to as far offshore as you have data. (or 5 degrees west of Greenwich east to the zero meridian) Data supplied by DECC/MS previously outlined licences held, not activity logs. Obviously the latter is preferable but any information would be appreciated'..

We have considered your request in accordance with The Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004 as the information you have sought disclosure of, does in our view, fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in the EIR.

The Department's environmental regulatory remit in relation to offshore energy activities covers offshore oil and gas, offshore gas unloading and storage, and offshore carbon capture and storage. We have considered your request for information on underwater sound in relation to the above offshore energy activities that the Department regulate and for the specific offshore area you have requested for i.e. from east of Cape Wrath along the Scottish east coast to the English border.

The Department does not hold activity logs for the survey vessels as they are not a requirement of the survey consent. The web-link below provides information on

applications we have received and consented: <https://www.gov.uk/oil-and-gas-environmental-data#offshore-petroleum-activities-conservation-of-habitats-regulations-2001>.

Where available, we have compiled survey close out forms that the consent holder (operator) needs to submit within 12 weeks following completion of the survey, for the period you are interested in. Please note that the personal information in the enclosed survey close out forms has been redacted. Regulations 12(3) and 13 of the EIRs provide an exception to disclosure of personal data. 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 third parties and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.

The Department however cannot confirm when the surveys were actually undertaken for applications that we are yet to receive close-out forms. For specific details of the activity we would recommend that you contact the consent holder directly.

### **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 Security & Information Rights Unit at:

Security & Information Rights Unit  
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills  
1 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0ET

E-mail: [foi.requests@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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

Encl.

18 survey close-out forms