



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW

www.gov.uk/decc

18 October 2013

RE: FOI Request: Ref: 13/1362

Thank you for your email dated 30 September 2013, where you requested that DECC provide you with copies of all correspondence, or records of oral conversations between the Department and Tony Blair, including correspondence and conversations with representatives of the Office of Tony Blair and the Africa Governance Initiative, between January 2010 and today.

From our preliminary assessment, it is clear that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the cost limit of £600 provided under s12 of the Freedom of Information Act ('the Act'). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, 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.

In order to provide you with the information on the scale that you have requested would require numerous searches of all forms of electronic and paper records across the Department in order to ensure that every inbox and archive was checked thoroughly. We estimate that it will take us in excess of 3.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request. Therefore, your request will not be processed further.

We can however confirm that within our Ministerial Private Office records we hold no information concerning Ministers and/or Special Advisers meeting with Mr Blair, his organisation or the Africa Governance Initiative. Transparency data compiled within Ministerial Private Offices, shows that neither the Secretary of State, any other Ministers or Special Advisers have declared that they met with

Mr Blair, his organisation or the Africa Governance Initiative in relation to Departmental business. You may be interested in viewing this information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change/series/ministers-meeting-with-external-organisations>.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, you could for example narrow your request to a specific Directorate or Team or policy area within DECC, rather than the whole Department, or select a shorter time frame.

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 the Information Rights Unit (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

Yours faithfully,

Correspondence Manager

DECC Correspondence Unit