

Our ref: 13/0568

31 May 2013

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 25 April 2013 to the Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change, the Rt. Hon Edward Davey MP, in which you made following request:

I am writing to you, under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), to request any information relating to explorations for Oil and Gas in the Firth of Clyde during the 1980s.

I have heard from a number of people who lived in the area and worked on the supply line for these explorations, and would like to know who carried out the work, the durations of these projects and the type of licences awarded.

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

I am writing to advise you that, following a search of our paper and electronic records, we have established that the only information we hold in the scope of your request is:

1. A reference in a spreadsheet to a licence held covering an area in the Firth of Clyde. An extract from this spreadsheet is set out below:

Licence Number	Operator	Start date	Final expiry	Area
PL262	BP Petroleum Development Limited	06-Apr-84	06-Apr-88	239.8

2. A map from 1985 which shows the licence area for PL262, attached to this letter.

PL262 was a Production Licence which was a type of onshore licence issued until 1996. It was the last in a series of licences covering the lifecycle of each onshore field from exploration to the end of production – as its name implies, it covered only the production stage. Today the standard onshore licence is a PEDL, which is a single licence that covers all stages.

This is the only information which DECC holds in relation to this licence. It is our understanding that, while under licence, some geological / seismic surveys may have been carried out within the licence area but we are not aware of any exploration drilling taking place. The licence was relinquished in 1988 and the area is currently unlicensed. For further information on the exact nature of any activities undertaken within the licence, you may wish to contact BP, who were the licence holder at the time.

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 and Information Rights Unit at: Security & Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Services), Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET. (E-mail: foi.requests@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 sincerely

*Oil & Gas Licensing Exploration & Development
Energy Development Unit*