



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

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Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
www.decc.gov.uk

Our ref: EIR 14/0167

24 February 2014

Dear **Redacted**

Re: Environmental Information Regulations Request

Thank you for your email of 27 January 2014 in which you requested the following:

"I would like to request the following information under the Environmental Information Regulations ...please note I am only interested in receiving environmental information. This will include information relating to issues such as the planning process, housing policy, architecture and building, climate change, Britain's coastline and national parks, the green belt, forestry, farming and agriculture, housing, maritime exploration, hunting, rights of way, energy policy, wind farms, renewable energy and energy consumption in general.

Please note that the reference to ministerial team should include any Secretary of State and or Minister currently in post as well as any of their predecessors who have also held office during the relevant period.

Please note that I am only interested in receiving information which relates to the period 1 January 2012 to the present day.

1...During the aforementioned period has HRH the Prince of Wales exchanged communications and correspondence (including emails) with any member of the



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ministerial team which in any relates to the environment. If the answer to the above question is yes could you please provide copies of all correspondence and communications including (emails).

2...During the aforementioned period has the private office of the Prince of Wales and or anyone acting on his behalf exchanged communications and correspondence with any member of the ministerial team which in any way relates to the environment. If the answer to the above question is yes could you please provide copies of all correspondence and communications including emails.”

Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 on the basis that the information you have sought disclosure of, does in our view, fall within the definition of ‘environmental information’ as stated in the EIRs.

I have carried out a search of our electronic and paper records and I have established that the Department does not hold any information within scope of your request. This falls within the exception in Regulation 12(4)(a) which states that a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that it does not hold that information when a request is received. While we acknowledge that all the exceptions in the EIRs are subject to the public interest test, the Information Commissioner has indicated that he can see no practical value in applying the test where no information is held and he does not expect public authorities to do so.

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 addressed to the Information Rights Unit (foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk).

Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

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.



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Yours sincerely

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