



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

**Department of Energy & Climate
Change**

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
www.gov.uk/decc

Your ref:
Our ref: **13/1501**

15 November 2013

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your e-mail of 24th October 2013 enquiring about the Department's losses and write-offs as published in the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Annual Report and Accounts.

You referred to "30 Losses and special payments" on page 207 of the Annual Report and Accounts and specifically asked for an explanation as to:-

1. what the payment of £782,015 to the National Grid in relation to Oldbury was for, how it came about that the money was paid and what service was supposed to be provided that wasn't?
2. be provided with any report/inquiry/investigation held into how it came about that this error occurred leading to this financial loss and
3. state the next four biggest individual financial sums that were written off in this section of the accounts and give a one sentence explanation of what each loss was for.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

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

With reference to your enquiry outlined in points 1 and 2 above, I can confirm that the Department does not hold any additional information to that already disclosed in our published accounts. The Nuclear Decommissioning Agency may hold this information and I, therefore, advise you to contact them via the following link - <http://www.nda.gov.uk/help/freedom-of-information.cfm> at.

With reference to your enquiry relating to point 3 above, I can confirm that the Department does hold the information you have requested. The information is as follows.

The four biggest individual financial sums that were written off by core DECC were:

- £466,403 – this related to an exchange loss incurred in the payment of an international subscription;
- £218,224, £205,304 and £181,496 – these were loans advanced to companies for the implementation of energy efficiency projects that were written off as the companies were unable to pay the loans having entered into administration.

The Department only considers accepting losses and write-offs after careful appraisal of the facts (including whether all reasonable action has been taken to effect recovery), and should be satisfied that there is no feasible alternative.

Appeal 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 two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Information Rights Unit at:

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