



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

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14 11 2013

RE: Ref: 13/1582

Thank you for your email dated 06 11 2013, where you requested that DECC provide you with all correspondence between the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and the following companies: British Gas, EDF Energy, NPower, E.ON UK, Scottish Power and SSE for the period of October 2008 and June 2010.

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 vast searches of all forms of correspondence across the whole Department including individual teams as well as Ministerial Private Offices and our central Correspondence Unit, in order to ensure that every piece of correspondence was picked up.

We estimate that it will take us in excess of 3.5 working days to determine the appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request. Therefore, your request will not be processed further.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope and being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, or which policy area within DECC you have a particular interest in, so that we are better able to retrieve the actual letters you require. Please also note that the DECC

Correspondence Unit was set up in 2010, so any requests for information dated prior to that year would need to be addressed to BIS and Defra, who were handling those enquiries.

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 DECC 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,

DECC Correspondence Unit