



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

**Department of Energy & Climate Change**

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Our ref: 13/1639

6 December 2013

**RE: Freedom of Information Request**

Further to your recent request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000, dated 18th November 2013, which read:

*Would you please supply your latest complete year figures of amounts paid to the electrical generating companies in constraint payments broken down by fuel used*

Constraint payments are made by National Grid, not DECC, through competitive market arrangements, in order to ensure the secure operation of the electricity system. The only information held by DECC of relevance to your request has been taken from publicly available websites. Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide this information as it is already reasonably accessible to you from the following sources:

- National Grid's *Procurement Guidelines Report 2012/13* sets out the costs of resolving constraints through different mechanisms. See: <http://www2.nationalgrid.com/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=24878>
- Page 32 of National Grid's *Monthly Balancing Services Summary* (October 2013) sets out the relatively small proportion of constraint payments made to wind powered generation in each financial year since 2010/11. Our understanding is that almost all other constraint payments relate to fossil fuel generators. See: <http://www2.nationalgrid.com/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=28139>

**Appeals Process**

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: **Information Rights Unit** ([foi@decc.gov.uk](mailto:foi@decc.gov.uk))

Security & 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

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit