



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

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Ref no: 14/0015

22 January 2014

Thank you for your email of 16 January 2014 where you requested the following information:

1) I would like to know the number of people currently working at the DECC who have previously worked in the oil and gas industry. Please narrow your search to the following groups at DECC:

- *Energy Markets & Infrastructure*
- *International Climate Change & Energy Efficiency*
- *Strategy and Evidence Group*
- *Office for Unconventional Gas and Oil*

Please also narrow your search to those who have joined DECC in the last three years.

In your response, please present the information in a table with columns for the following:

- I. The title of their current position and the policy team that they work for*
- II. The name of the oil and gas company(ies) they previously worked for, including their start and end date*
- III. The job position(s) they held at that particular oil and gas company*

I would like to clarify by what is meant by shale gas companies. They include the following companies (but not limited to):

- *Cuadrilla*
- *IGas*
- *Coastal Oil & Gas Ltd*
- *UK Methane*
- *Dart Energy*
- *RWE*

It also includes the following energy companies (but not limited to):

- *British Gas*
- *EDF Energy*
- *E.ON UK*
- *npower*
- *Scottish Power*

- SSE

And the following oil companies (but not limited to):

- Shell
- BP
- ConocoPhillips

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 / Freedom of Information Act 2000

Although you have stated you have requested information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs') we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) as the information you have sought disclosure of, in our view, does not fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in the EIRs.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'). Under the Act you have the right to:

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

The Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) has recently undertaken an internal reorganisation. As a result, a number of the departmental groups, which you have referred to in your request, have changed their titles. If you follow the link below you will be able to view the department's current organisational structure.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/249854/decc-organogram.pdf.

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 the past 3 years, over 550 people have joined the departmental groups that you have specified in your request. The application forms and any associated cv's which may contain this information are not stored in any electronic format in the centrally held HR records. Therefore in order to provide you with the information on the scale that you have requested would require us to examine the paper records of each of those application files and to contact each individual team to determine if they hold local recruitment records.

We estimate that it will take us in excess of 3.5 working days to determine 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 by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required, or for a smaller section of the Department. I would point out that application data is stored and retained for a period of two years after the application before being destroyed in line with departmental policy on document retention.

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 two months 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 Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.