



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

**Department of Energy & Climate  
Change**

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Our ref: 13/1430

04-11-2013

Dear

**Freedom of information request: Geo-engineering**

Thank you for your email dated 11<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) as the information you have sought disclosure of does, in our view, fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in the EIRs.

Under the EIRs you have the right to:

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

A search of our paper and electronic records has returned the following information relevant to your request:

- 1) When did this programme of spraying begin and how long will it go on?**
- 2) What exactly is being sprayed?**
- 3) What is the scientific impact of these chemicals on humanity, wildlife and the environment?**
- 4) What have the public been told about this programme?**
- 5) What is the evidence supporting this practice?**
- 6) Who is carrying out this work?**
- 7) Who is paying for it?**

1-7: We hold no records concerning any of your points 1-7. No geo-engineering programmes, including Solar Radiation Management (SRM), are being performed by HMG and, to the best of our knowledge, no geo-engineering is being performed in or above the UK. While SRM is discussed in the Royal Society report, it does not recommend implementing a programme of SRM actions, and no such programme exists.



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The trails you see in the sky are contrails from aircraft. There are fundamentally two forms of contrails; those that are persistent and those that are non-persistent:

If humidity and temperature are in the right balance (temperature must be below  $-57^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) these condensed trails cannot evaporate again and so persist for some time and can be dispersed into broader patterns by the wind at high altitudes. These persistent contrails can combine with the contrails from other aircraft to form what can effectively be described as high cloud. This can be very noticeable, especially if it occurs near air traffic route "hubs" where many aircraft converge.

On other occasions when prevailing humidity at altitude is low, the contrails can readily evaporate again and so are non-persistent.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Under Regulation 11(2) of the EIRs a request for an internal review should be submitted no later than 40 working days after the date of this letter and should be addressed to:

[foi@decc.qsi.gov.uk](mailto:foi@decc.qsi.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 sincerely,

Science Team  
Department of Energy and Climate Change