



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

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www.gov.uk/decc

Our ref: 13/1518

18 November 2013

Dear

RE: Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your email of 28 October where you requested the following information:

Please provide a list of all visits from the department to the North East of England since the coalition government was formed.

Where possible, please state date of visit, location of visit, name of minister visiting and purpose of visit.

Please take the North East of England to be the area covered by the former Government Office North East.

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).

From our preliminary assessment, it is clear that we will not be able to answer your request in full 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 locating, retrieving and extracting the information. The Act provides that we are not obliged to compile with requests where the estimated cost of complying would exceed this limit,



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In order to provide you with the information on the scale that you have requested would require searching through all DECC Ministers' diaries for a period of more than three years.. We estimate that it would take us in excess of 3.5 working days to locate, retrieve and extract any information falling within scope of your request.

While it is not possible to provide all the information you have requested within the cost limit, I can confirm that two DECC Ministers have visited the North East in the last 12 months. Details are below:

Minister	Where	When	Purpose
Greg Barker	Durham / Newcastle	11 December	Gentoo visit Romag visit Warm up North Consortium
Edward Davey	Newcastle	28 March	Visit to OGN Group (construction and installation company providing services to the offshore oil & gas and renewable energy industries).

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 Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF



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Yours sincerely,