



8 December 2014

Ref No: 25183

Thank you for your email of 10 November where you requested the following information:

- 1. The detailed gas and electricity price impacts (£/MWh) of all policies considered in DECC's Estimated Impacts of Energy and Climate Change Policies on Energy Prices and Bills (2014) for all types of consumer (domestic, medium sized business, and intensive energy users), and in all three scenarios of fossil fuel prices, Low, Central, and High. I am certain that the Department holds this information because a) the modelled bill impacts reported in the Estimated Impacts (2014) could not be generated without such price impact estimates; and b) exactly these detailed price impacts (£/MWh, for all types of consumer etc. as above) have been reported in both previous issues of Estimated Impacts (2011, and 2013), though unaccountably omitted in 2014. The information requested is presumably similar in structure and extent as that previously published, and will not be difficult to collect or to transmit.*
- 2. All information including correspondence, minutes of meetings, and reports and studies relating to the review of DECC's Average Prices and Bills (APB) model by the department's own Modelling Integrity Team. I am certain that there is such a review since Annex B of Estimated Impacts (2014), page 56, makes reference to the fact.*

With respect to the information referred to in the first paragraph of your request we can confirm that the Department holds information falling within the terms of your request. However, this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 22 of the Act because the information is intended for publication shortly.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and we have therefore considered the public interest test.

We recognise that there is a public interest in providing the information requested. However we consider that the public interest is best served by ensuring the published data is provided in a consistent and comprehensive format, with appropriate supporting explanatory notes and context, and has followed all planned clearance and publication procedures.

Having considered the public interest, we consider that the public interest in disclosing this information in advance of its intended publication is outweighed by the public interest considerations in favour of releasing the information at a later date, as planned. The Department's decision is therefore to withhold this information until its planned publication.

With respect to the information referred to in the second paragraph of your request we need more time to consider your request as explained below.

Your request has been considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act"). However, some of the information you have requested is considered environmental information for the purposes of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("the EIRs"). To the extent that the information requested is environmental your request has also been considered under the EIRs.

The Act obliges us to respond to requests promptly and in any case not later than 20 working days after receiving a request. However, when a 'qualified' exemption applies to the information and an accompanying public interest test is engaged, section 10(3) of the Act allows the time for response to be extended, in which case a full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances. The exemption which applies to the information that you have requested is section 35 of the Act, which exempts information where it relates to the formulation or development of government policy.

The Department has not yet reached a decision on the balance of the public interest in relation to this part of your request. Due to the need to consider, in all the circumstances of the case, where the balance of the public interest lies in relation to the information that you have requested, the Department will not be able to respond to your request in full within 20 working days.

With regards to the EIRs, we are required to respond to requests as soon as possible and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving a request. However, by regulation 7 the period of 20 working days may be extended up to a total of 40 working days if we reasonably believe that the complexity and volume of the information requested means that it is impractical to comply with a request within the earlier period or to make a decision to refuse to do so. In respect of your request, we believe that regulation 7 applies.

In line with the requirements of both the Act and the EIRs, we hope to let you have a response by 8 January 2015, or sooner if possible.

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 sent to the Information Rights Unit at:

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
E-mail: foi.requests@bis.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