



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

**Redacted**  
**Redacted**

Department of Energy & Climate Change  
3 Whitehall Place,  
London SW1A 2AW  
[www.decc.gov.uk](http://www.decc.gov.uk)

Our ref: FOI2014/15241

31 July 2014

Dear **Redacted**

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 8 July in which you requested the following:

*This request is for information under the Freedom of Information Act and under the Environmental Information Regulations Act and relates to any communications or meetings which have taken place between Michael Fallon MP, his personal staff and his representatives and the GWPF or any known representatives of the Global Warming Policy Foundation between 01/01/2012 and today's date.*

*Representatives of the GWPF would include:*

- Lord Lawson
- Andrew Montford
- John Shade
- Dr Benny Peiser
- Lord Donoughue
- Lord Fellowes
- Rt Reverend Peter Fisher
- Sir Martin Jacomb
- Baroness Nicholson
- Sir James Spooner
- Lord Turnbull
- Richard Tol

*For each meeting, could I be supplied with the:*

- Time
- Date



## Department of Energy & Climate Change

- *Location*
- *Names and titles of the people in attendance*
- *Number of people in attendance*
- *Agendas*
- *Minutes*
- *Briefing notes*
- *Any associated documents which were referred to or generated as a direct result of this conversation*

*Similarly, for each item of correspondence, to include but not be limited to telephone calls, emails or text messages, could I be supplied with the:*

- *Time*
- *Date*
- *Names and titles of other people party to the correspondence*
- *Any attachments to emails or supplementary documents included*
- *Any associated documents generated as a direct result of this conversation e.g. briefing notes, minutes, memos, transcripts or summaries*

*Please ensure you have searched for relevant correspondence in:*

- *Emails and attachments*
- *Letters*
- *Briefing documents or equivalents (sent and received)*
- *Notes taken in relation to phone calls*
- *Any other form of correspondence used by either party related to the parties specified above.*

### ***Environmental Information Regulations***

*Due to the GWPF's self assigned 'mission' as being one deeply concerned by current climate policy and Michael Fallon's role as joint Minister of State for BIS and DECC some of the information within the scope of this request may be covered under Environmental Information Regulations. If this is the case there is a stronger argument for disclosure as the scales are tipped in favour of transparency.*

We have considered your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ('the 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.

The Department wishes to be as open as possible in answering requests, and to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Unfortunately in this case, from our preliminary assessment, it is clear that to determine whether the Department holds the information you have requested and to locate, retrieve and extract the information would require a substantial volume of work.

In order to provide you with the information on the scale that you have requested would require a search of all the records, computer drives and email



## Department of Energy & Climate Change

accounts of Mr Fallon, his private office staff and Special Advisors including their support staff for the period stated in your request. We estimate that the amount of work required would take us over the limit referred to above.

After careful examination of your request under the EIRs, we have determined that Regulation 12(4)(b) would apply. Regulation 12(4)(b) states that a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that the request for information is manifestly unreasonable.

In applying the exception, we have considered the public interest test in respect of your request. We have applied a presumption in favour of disclosure as required by Regulation 12(2). We acknowledge that there may be public interest in the information you have requested. Greater transparency makes the government more accountable to the electorate and increases trust and also enables the public contribution to policy making to become more effective.

However, your request is broad and voluminous. Gathering the information you request would be likely to involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the teams concerned and the Department's other work. Therefore, we will not process your request as currently drafted at this stage.

Given the nature of your request you may wish to refine it by narrowing its scope and being more specific concerning the precise nature of the information you wish to obtain. You could, for example focus on information relating to a particular set of correspondence or meeting with a particular person named in your list above, or reduce the time period that you wish to obtain information for.

You may also like to be aware that Mr Fallon was Minister of State at DECC between 28 March 2013 and 15 July 2014 so it is unlikely that DECC would hold information outside of this period.

You may wish to be aware that details of DECC Ministers and the Permanent Secretary's meetings with external organisations are published on a quarterly basis on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website at the following link:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-of-energy-climate-change&publication\\_type=transparency-data](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-of-energy-climate-change&publication_type=transparency-data)

Information covering the period of the first quarter of 2014 (January – March) is being compiled and checked and will be published in due course.

### **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



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

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](mailto: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.

Yours sincerely,

**Redacted**  
**Redacted**