



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

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Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
www.decc.gov.uk

Our ref: FOI2014/28995

19 January 2015

Dear **Redacted**

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 18 December in which you requested the following:

"I am seeking information on meetings between Edward Davey and the following organisations:

- *January 2014 - Exxon Mobil*
- *January 2014 - UK Corporate Leaders Group*
- *March 2014 - EDF*
- *March 2014 - E.ON*
- *March 2014 - Centrica*
- *March 2014 – SSE*

Please provide:

- *Any meeting minutes*
- *Meeting readouts*
- *Briefing notes*
- *Or other meeting memoranda*
- *Emails between the parties involved in the lead up to and after the meeting*

Please also provide information on meetings including:

- *Date*
- *Time*
- *Place*



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- Length
- Attendee list (including name (where discloseable under requirements of DPA) and job title of each attendee)”

The information you have requested constitutes environmental information for the purposes of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). Your request has been considered under the terms of the EIR.

Following a search of the Department’s paper and electronic records we have established that we hold some of the information you requested. The information which is held and can be disclosed is provided in the table below and in the attached related documents. Some information has been withheld in accordance with the exceptions in Regulation 12 (4)(e) or Regulation 12(3) of the EIRs.

Meeting	Details
January 2014 – Exxon Mobil	<p>Brad Corson (Chairman), Exxon International</p> <p>9 January 2014, 10am – 1045am, at DECC, 3 Whitehall Place, London.</p> <p>Email arranging meeting disclosed and attached to this letter. Some information withheld in accordance with Regulation 12(3).</p> <p>Note of meeting is withheld in accordance with the exceptions in Regulation 12(4) (e) and Regulation 12(3).</p> <p>No additional information held.</p>
January 2014 – UK Corporate Leaders Group	<p>BT, EDF, Jaguar Landrover, Heathrow, Lloyds TSB, Shell, Unilever, University of Cambridge. Further information withheld in accordance with Regulation 12(3).</p> <p>13 January 2014, 11am – 12pm at DECC, 3 Whitehall Place, London.</p> <p>Email arranging meeting disclosed and</p>



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	<p>attached to this letter. Some information withheld in accordance with Regulation 12(3).</p> <p>No additional information held.</p>
March 2014 - EDF	<p>Vincent de Rivaz (Chief Executive)</p> <p>11 March 2014, 3.35pm – 4.10pm at DECC, 3 Whitehall Place, London.</p> <p>One briefing note is withheld in accordance with the exceptions in Regulation 12(4) (e) and Regulation 12(3) of the EIRs.</p> <p>No additional information held.</p>
March 2014 – EON	<p>Tony Cocker (Chief Executive)</p> <p>12 March 2014, 4.45pm – 7.30pm at the House of Commons</p> <p>Email arranging meeting disclosed. Some information withheld in accordance with Regulation 12(3).</p> <p>No additional information held.</p>
March 2014 – Centrica	<p>Rick Haythornthwaite (Chairman)</p> <p>20 March 2014, 3pm – 3.45pm at DECC, 3 Whitehall Place, London</p> <p>No additional information held.</p>
March 2014 – SSE	<p>Alistair Phillips-Davies (Chief Executive)</p> <p>20 March 2014, 4pm – 4.45pm at DECC, 3 Whitehall Place, London</p>



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	No additional information held.
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The exceptions indicated in the table are subject to the public interest test. The key public interest considerations we have taken into account are set out below. In considering the public interest we have applied a presumption in favour of disclosure as required by regulation 12(2) of the EIRs.

Regulation 12(4)(e) provides an exception to the disclosure of internal communications. Briefing documents or emails prepared by officials in the Department for ministers and senior officials, which we hold within the scope of this request take the form of internal communications and therefore exception 12(4)(e) applies to them.

We appreciate that there is a public interest in disclosing internal communications, as this enables the public to assess the quality of policy formulation, advice and guidance, and provides transparency in the decision making process making Government more accountable.

However, releasing internal communications would inhibit the ability of officials to provide Ministers and senior officials with free and frank advice and keep free and frank records of discussions between officials if there was a possibility that this advice could be disclosed at a later date. This would have a detrimental effect on the briefing process, leading civil servants to be less candid in their views. It would also affect policy development, as it would prove difficult in taking account of the views expressed by others if records were not kept. Given the live nature of the communications within the scope of the request, such outcomes would be likely to prejudice the conduct of public affairs, as this could result in less well-informed Ministers and senior officials.

Having considered the public interest, the Department has taken the decision to withhold the information requested.

Regulations 12(3) excepts information to the extent that the information requested includes personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject. Regulation 12(3) provides an absolute exception for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act 1998. Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed in accordance with the data protection principles. In particular, the first data protection principle requires that disclosure must be fair and lawful and must comply with one of the conditions in Schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act. We do not think that it is fair to release the names of junior



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members of staff or third parties and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.

I hope you find this helpful.

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.

Yours sincerely,

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