



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

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

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Our ref: FOI 14/0663

20 May 2014

Dear **Redacted**

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 23 April 2014 in which you requested the following:

- 1) *How many press conferences have DECC ministers held in each of the following financial years: 2008-9, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14?*
- 2) *How many meetings have DECC ministers held with journalists in each of the years above?*

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).

1) *How many press conferences have DECC ministers held in each of the following financial years: 2008-9, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14?*

The Department wishes to be as open as possible in answering requests, and to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Unfortunately with regards to the first part of your request, we cannot provide you the information as your request is too wide and the effort to administer your request would exceed the limit prescribed in Regulations made pursuant to Section 12 of the



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Act. This limit is £600 which represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. The Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with requests where the estimated cost of complying would exceed this limit.

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 accounts of DECC Ministerial Offices, their Support Staff and the Press Team. We estimate that the amount of work required would take us over the limit referred to above.

The best way that we can help you is therefore to ask you to consider whether you could narrow down your request to focus on the precise information that you are seeking. You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain. For example you could state the specific subject of a press conference or meeting you wish to know about and provide a specific date or period of time.

All announcements of any type such as News Stories, Press Releases, Speeches and Parliamentary Statements by DECC ministers are available to view or download from the www.gov.uk website at the following link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/announcements?departments%5B%5D=department-of-energy-climate-change>

2) How many meetings have DECC ministers held with journalists in each of the years above?

For details of meetings between May 2010 and September 2013, this information is exempt under section 21 of the Act, *Information accessible to applicant by other means*.

Since April 2012 all meetings with Newspaper and other Media Proprietors, Editors and Senior Executives have been published on a quarterly basis on the 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

Meetings prior to April 2012 are available on the National Archives website at the following link:
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130102164008/http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministermtgs.aspx>



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Information about meetings after September 2013 are exempt under Section 22 of the Act as the information is intended for publication at a future date on the www.gov.uk website. Section 22 is a qualified exemption and we have therefore considered the public interest test. There is a public interest in knowing information about ministerial meetings as this leads to greater transparency in government. However, the best use of public resources would be applied in pulling this information together, ensuring the information is accurate and published in a consistent and comprehensive format, rather than issuing it in a piecemeal fashion. This information is still being checked prior to publication. Please be assured that the Department is committed to publishing this information. Having considered the public interest test, the Department's decision is to withhold the information about meetings after September 2013.

The Department does not hold any information which may relate to your request prior to May 2010.

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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