



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

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20 August 2014

RE: SUPPORT UNDER THE RENEWABLES OBLIGATION

Thank you for your email of 24 July where you requested the following information:

Any correspondence since 1 January 2014 between the Department of Energy and Climate Change, and any of the following: Dong Energy, Vattenfall, E.ON, Masdar Renewables, Centrica, Statoil, EDF, the Green Investment Bank, GDF Suez, including any related subsidiaries, trade bodies or public affairs firms operating on their behalf.

More specifically, I am only interested in:

(a) Correspondence regarding the structure of Renewable Obligation support for all technologies till 2017 and appeals for changes to the policy or consultations on changes to that policy

(b) Correspondence citing concern with the availability and/or value of RO support to offshore wind and its impact on the viability of future projects

(c) Minutes of any meetings between DECC officials and the above parties on the availability and/or value of RO support to offshore wind and its impact on the viability of future projects and/or the structure of Renewable Obligation support for all technologies till 2017 and appeals for changes to the policy or consultations on changes to that policy.

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.

I am writing to advise you that, following a search of our paper and electronic records, DECC does hold information falling within the scope of question (a) relating to the companies explicitly named in your request and the documents found are attached.

Some personal information has been redacted from the information provided to you. Regulation 12(3) of the EIR provides absolute exemption for personal data, which then falls to be dealt with under the data Protection Act (DPA). 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 DPA. We do not think it is fair to release names and contact details of individuals or staff in other organisations and do not think that any of the relevant conditions in Schedule 2 of the DPA apply. As a result the names and contact details of individuals and organisations have been redacted from the consultation responses.

Your request also asked for information held which covered related subsidiaries, trade bodies and public affairs firms operating on behalf of the companies explicitly named in your request. We have not identified any information falling within this limb of the request, because without knowing the name of possible subsidiaries of these companies it may not always be obvious whether a body or firm is acting on behalf of another company. If you are able to provide the department with the names of any subsidiaries, trade bodies or public affairs firms that should specifically be checked, we will be happy to consider whether DECC holds any further information falling within the scope of your requests.

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 40 working days 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

Yours sincerely

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TEAM