



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

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Our ref: **14/0529**

25 April 2014

Dear

RE: Your Freedom of Information request:

Thank you for your *email* of 26 March 2014, where you requested the following information:

- Information relating to the total number of operational windfarms in England, according to Government figures, as of January 2014.
- Information relating to the total number of windfarm applications approved by the UK Government since May 2007, the total number of windfarm applications rejected by the UK Government since May 2007, and the total number of windfarm applications currently still under consideration by the UK Government.
- An estimate of how many jobs in England are presently connected to the windfarm/wind energy industry, according to the UK Government.
- Information relating to how much has been paid in Renewable Obligation subsidies, under the Renewables Obligation Certificate Scheme, in England since 2007. I would wish these figures in an annual format per year since 2007 until present. Note, they do not have to be broken down by individual subsidy and can be a total annual figure.

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

Under the EIRs, you have the right to:

- Know whether we hold the information you have requested and;
- Be provided with that information (subject to any exceptions which may apply)

DECC produces a figure for the number of operational wind farms on an annual basis. At the end of 2012, there were approximately 5,536 wind sites (covering both single and multiple turbines). Source:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-trends-september-2013-special-feature-articles-renewable-electricity-in-scotland-wales-northern-ireland-and-the-regions-of-england-in-201> (Table 1, "Wind and wave": 5,545 sites, including approximately nine wave/tidal sites).



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DECC has not produced a figure for the end of 2013 as yet. This will be published (in an update of the above article) on 25 September 2014, at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/renewables-statistics>. However, the following sources will also help with this information: the Renewable Energy Planning Database (REPD) gives details of all sites that have been through the planning process: <https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/planning-database-reports/>. The REPD will not, however, include sites that have not been through planning – many of these smaller-scale permitted developments will be captured within the Feed in Tariff scheme; details of these can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/monthly-central-feed-in-tariff-register-statistics>

The REPD tracks the progress of all projects over 0.01 MW from submission of a planning application through to determination and generation. This comprises projects where consents are via the Local Planning Authorities, DECC or the Devolved Administrations. Historical data for planning approvals and refusals change from one month to the next owing to time taken for planning information to be published and the difficulty in locating each individual piece of planning data. As at the end of February 2014, the REPD shows (for onshore and offshore wind installations):

	Refused (since May 2007)		Approved (since May 2007)		Submitted and awaiting approval	
	No of applications	Capacity (MW)	No of applications	Capacity (MW)	No of applications	Capacity (MW)
Offshore wind	1	540	22	5,799	14	11,547
Onshore wind	627	5,554	1,226	10,068	803	6,495
TOTAL wind	628	6,094	1,248	15,866	817	18,042

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has published an assessment of employment in the renewable wind sector and its wider supply chain and published this data in the Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) report for 2011/12:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/low-carbon-and-environmental-goods-and-services-2011-to-2012>

Table 13 in the report provides an estimate that in 2011/12, 78,000 were employed in England in the renewable wind sector and its wider supply chain.

DECC does not have actual figures for subsidies paid to generators under the Renewables Obligation (RO). However, this can be estimated by multiplying the number of Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs) issued by the nominal value of a ROC in that RO year. The table below gives a breakdown for generators in England, from 2006/7 to 2012/13.

	ROCs issued to generators in England	Value of a ROC (£)	Estimated subsidy (£million)
2006/07	8,050,314	49.20	396
2007/08	8,573,690	53.22	456
2008/09	10,174,435	54.68	556
2009/10	11,091,849	52.47	582
2010/11	13,487,804	51.48	694
2011/12	18,602,423	42.37	788
2012/13	28,514,221	44.48	1,268

ROCs issued by generator and country, available at:

<https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Public/ReportManager.aspx?ReportVisibility=1&ReportCategory=0> (certificates by technology and country). ROC values are available in Ofgem's annual report at: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/renewables-obligation-ro-annual-report-2012-2013> (Table 6).



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To note that the figures presented above additionally include the component attributable to Ofgem's administration costs (10p per ROC in 2012/13).

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: Information Rights Unit (foi@decc.gov.uk) or by post to Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Services), Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, Victoria 3, 5th Floor, 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

DECC Knowledge and Information Management Team