



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

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

**Redacted**  
**Redacted**

Our ref: FOI 14/0547

25 April 2014

Dear **Redacted**

**RE: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 29 March in which you asked for the following:

- *“A list of all communications between Special & Political Advisers attached to DECC Ministers or the Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change, and representatives from the Big Six utility firms (Centrica / British Gas, SSE, RWE NPower, EOn, EDF, Scottish Power), between 28th September 2013 to the present.*
- *I would like each email, phone call or meeting logged with a time stamp and indicating, where possible, who were the parties involved. I would also like to see any notes that were attached to these exchanges, or, in the case of emails, the text of the messages where possible.”*

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).

The Department wishes to be as open as possible in answering requests, and to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Unfortunately, we cannot provide the information you have requested 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 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



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

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 the Special Advisers and their support staff for a full six month period. 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 you wish to know about and reduce the time period.

#### **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](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**