



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2AW

Email:
www.decc.gov.uk

Ref No: EIR 2014/27674

23rd December 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 1st December where you requested the following information:

“I was wondering if it would be possible to provide a more detailed breakdown of the projected cumulative new and total capacities, in particular: Breakdown of the renewables category by technology (offshore/onshore, hydro, biomass, other ...) – as provided last year Breakdown of gas-fired plant by technology (OCGT, CCGT, CHP).”

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.

I can confirm that the Department holds information falling within the terms of your request. However, we consider the exception to disclosure under Regulation 12(4)(e) of the EIRs to apply to the renewables aspect of the information. This exception provides that a public authority may refuse to disclose information if “the request involves the disclosure of internal communications”.

This is a qualified exception and public authorities are required to apply a public interest test as set out in Regulation 12(1)(b).

In applying this exception, we have considered the public interest in disclosing the information.

In this respect we recognise that disclosure could enhance public understanding of the projected future evolution of the various forms of

renewable – based electricity generation. Disclosure of information can facilitate the accountability and transparency of Government decisions.

However, we consider the balance of the public interest to lie in favour of withholding the information in this case. This year we have moved to a competitive allocation process for financial support to renewable electricity projects through Contracts for Difference (CFDs). Disclosure risks having a distortive effect on bidding behaviour in current and future CFD allocation rounds, and potentially impacting on value for money for consumers.

Officials need to work within a private space to develop policy without material being disclosed which may cause confusion or misrepresent Government policy.

Having considered the public interest, the Department's decision is therefore not to disclose the renewables information.

The second part of your request concerns natural gas fired plant and a breakdown of the natural gas capacity and new build figures for all electricity producers is provided in the spreadsheet which accompanies this letter. Please note that in the course of preparing this information an error in the new gas build figures has been detected. The figures in the spreadsheet show the corrected data. The Department is under no duty to create new data in response to an information request so this goes beyond the Department's duties under the EIRs, but has been done in the interests of being as helpful as possible. We anticipate being able to make corrections to the published data early in 2015.

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,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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