



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
www.gov.uk/decc

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Our ref: FOI2015/08295

June 2015

Dear **Redacted**

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 6 May 2015 in which you refined your request to the following information:

“Please restrict the request to communications between Mr Blair/the below organisations and ministers/ministerial offices.

Please also include any internal DECC communications within this period held by ministerial offices relating to Mr Blair and the work of any of his organisations.”

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 following information relates to your request:

- A phone call took place between Greg Barker's ex ministerial private office and Mr Blair's office on 17 September 2013 at 10am. No further information about this phone call is held by the Department.
- The attached document shows communications between Greg Barker's ex ministerial private office and Mr Blair's office. No additional information about these communications is held by the Department.

Information redacted from the attached document is withheld under Sections 38(1)(a)&(b) and 40 of the Act.

Section 38 (1) (a) & (b) Health and Safety

We have considered this request under Section 38 (1) (a) and (b) Health and Safety. Information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or endanger the safety of any individual. As above, in considering this exemption we balanced the public interest in withholding further details of this information against the public interest in disclosing the information. We have concluded that it would not be appropriate to disclose specific details of security arrangements made by ministers in the Department or any other person who has previously held public office because the information could be used to establish a pattern of movement or their security arrangements before events which could endanger their personal safety.

Section 40 – personal data

Section 40(2) provides an absolute exemption for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act. 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 Data Protection Act. We do not think that it is fair to disclose the names of junior officials in either the Department or Mr Blair's office.

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 at the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills who have a shared service level agreement with DECC to process and advise on our FOI requests.

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Email: FOI@decc.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,

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