



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

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Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
www.decc.gov.uk

Our ref: FOI2015/01788

24 February 2015

Dear **Redacted**

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 27 January in which you requested the following:

“...Information on meetings between Baroness Verma and the following organisations:

- *January 2014 - Scottish Power*
- *March 2014 - Igas*

Please provide:

- *Any meeting minutes*
- *Meeting readouts*
- *Briefing notes*
- *Or other meeting memoranda*
- *Emails between the parties involved in the lead up to and after the meeting*

Please also provide information on meetings including:

- *Date*
- *Time*
- *Place*
- *Length*
- *Attendee list (including name (where discloseable under requirements of DPA) and job*
- *title of each attendee)...”*

We have considered your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (‘the EIRs’) as the information you have sought



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disclosure of, does in our view, fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in the EIRs.

Please find as follows:

Scottish Power – January 2014

- ***Any meeting minutes*** – not held
- ***Meeting readouts*** – not held
- ***Briefing notes*** – not held
- ***Or other meeting memoranda*** – not held
- ***Emails between the parties involved in the lead up to and after the meeting*** – not held

Please also provide information on meetings including:

- ***Date*** – 30 January 2014
- ***Time*** – not held
- ***Place*** – Glasgow
- ***Attendee list (including name (where discloseable under requirements of DPA) and job title of each attendee).*** – not held

Igas – March 2014

- ***Any meeting minutes*** – not held
- ***Meeting readouts*** – not held
- ***Briefing notes*** – not held
- ***Or other meeting memoranda*** – not held
- ***Emails between the parties involved in the lead up to and after the meeting*** – emails arranging meeting held, these are disclosed and attached with this letter. However, some of this information is withheld.

Please also provide information on meetings including:

- ***Date*** – 31 March 2014
- ***Time*** – 4.30pm
- ***Place*** – House of Lords
- ***Attendee list (including name (where discloseable under requirements of DPA) and job title of each attendee).*** – Francis Gugen (Executive Chairman).

Where, above, information is stated as not held I have carried out a search of our electronic and paper records and I have established that the Department does not hold any information within scope of your request. This falls within the exception in Regulation 12(4)(a) which states that a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that it does not hold that information when a request is received. While we acknowledge that all the exceptions in the EIRs



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are subject to the public interest test, the Information Commissioner has indicated that he can see no practical value in applying the test where no information is held and he does not expect public authorities to do so.

Where, above, information is stated as withheld this falls within **Regulations 12(3) and 13(1)** which excepts information to the extent that the information requested includes personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject. Regulation 13(1) provides an absolute exception for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act 1998. 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 release the names of junior members of staff, third parties or personal data of any kind and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.

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).

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,

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