



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: FOI2014/26230

17 December 2014

Dear **Redacted**

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 19 November in which you requested the following:

"I am seeking information on meetings between Michael Fallon and the following organisations:

- *January 2014 - SSE*
- *January 2014 - EDF*
- *January 2014 - UK Coal*
- *February 2014 - SSE*
- *February 2014 - Centrica*
- *February 2014 - Intergen*
- *March 2014 - UK Coal*
- *March 2014 - Pension Protection Fund*
- *March 2014 - Exxon*
- *March 2014 - EDF*
- *March 2014 - UK Coal*
- *March 2014 - Sunday Telegraph*
- *March 2014 - UK Coal*
- *March 2014 – BP*

I am also seeking information on the following Hospitality provided to Michael Fallon

- *5th March - EEERG - Dinner*
- *17th March - BP – Dinner*



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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)

For the two dinner occasions please provide any

Menus that were provided

Seating plans"

The information you have requested constitutes environmental information for the purposes of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). Your request has been considered under the terms of the EIR.

Some of the related information you requested are withheld in accordance with the exceptions in Regulation 12(4) (e) and Regulation 12(3) of the EIRs.

These exceptions are subject to the public interest test. The key public interest considerations we have taken into account are set out below. In considering the public interest we have applied a presumption in favour of disclosure as required by regulation 12(2) of the EIRs.

Regulation 12(4)(e) provides an exception to the disclosure of internal communications. Briefing documents or emails prepared by officials in the Department for ministers and senior officials, which we hold within the scope of this request take the form of internal communications and therefore exception 12(4)(e) applies to them.

We appreciate that there is a public interest in disclosing internal communications, as this enables the public to assess the quality of policy formulation, advice and guidance, and provides transparency in the decision making process making Government more accountable.



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However, releasing internal communications would inhibit the ability of officials to provide Ministers and senior officials with free and frank advice and keep free and frank records of discussions between officials if there was a possibility that this advice could be disclosed at a later date. This would have a detrimental effect on the briefing process, leading civil servants to be less candid in their views. It would also affect policy development, as it would prove difficult in taking account of the views expressed by others if records were not kept. Given the live nature of the communications within the scope of the request, such outcomes would be likely to prejudice the conduct of public affairs, as this could result in less well-informed Ministers and senior officials.

Having considered the public interest, the Department has taken the decision to withhold the information requested.

Regulations 12(3) exempts information to the extent that the information requested includes personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject. Regulation 12(3) 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 or third parties and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.

Some aspects of the information you requested are released to you and attached to this reply.

Following further searches of the Department's paper and electronic records we have established that we do not hold some of the related aspects of the information you requested.

Meeting	Details
January 2014 – SSE	Alistair Phillips-Davies (Chief Executive) 8 January, 10.30 – 11.00 at Decc, 3 Whitehall Place. However, a briefing note is withheld in accordance with the exceptions in Regulation 12(4) (e) and Regulation 12(3) of the EIRs.



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January 2014 – EDF	<p>Vincent de Rivaz (Chief Executive)</p> <p>14 Jan, 12.00 – 12.30 at Decc, 3 Whitehall Place.</p> <p>2 briefing notes are withheld in accordance with the exceptions in Regulation 12(4) (e) and Regulation 12(3) of the EIRs.</p>
January 2014 - UK Coal	<p>Telephone meeting, 29 January, 13.00 – 13.30 at Decc, 3 Whitehall Place.</p> <p>A briefing note and names of attendees are withheld in accordance with the exceptions in Regulation 12(4) (e) and Regulation 12(3) of the EIRs.</p>
February 2014 – SSE	No additional information held
February 2014 – Intergen	No additional information held
February 2014 – Centrica	<p>Rick Haythornthwaite (Chairman)</p> <p>6 February, 15.30 – 16.00, Decc, 3 Whitehall Place.</p> <p>One briefing note is withheld in accordance with the exceptions in Regulation 12(4) (e) and Regulation 12(3) of the EIRs. Emails leading up to meeting are released with this letter.</p>
March 2014 - Pension Protection Fund	No additional information held
March 2014 - Sunday Telegraph	No additional information held
March 2014 - UK Coal	<p>Telephone call with Kevin McCullough (CEO)</p> <p>5 March, 08:15 - 08:45.</p>



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	<p>Related email which is withheld in accordance with the exceptions in Regulation 12(4)(e) and Regulation 12(3) of the EIRs.</p>
March 2014 – Exxon	<p>11 March, 16.45 – 17.15. Decc office, 3 Whitehall place.</p> <p>Email proposing agenda, which is withheld in accordance with the exceptions in Regulation 12(4) (e) and Regulation 12(3) of the EIRs. No other information is held.</p>
March 2014 - UK Coal	<p>Telephone call with Kevin McCullough (CEO)</p> <p>Decc office, 3 Whitehall place - on 21 March, 14:00 – 14:30</p> <p>No other information held.</p>
March 2014 - UK Coal	<p>Telephone call with Kevin McCullough (CEO)</p> <p>Decc office, 3 Whitehall place - 28 March 16:00-16:30.</p> <p>Related email leading up to meeting is released with this letter.</p>
March 2014 – BP	<p>BP Offices, 1 St James Square, 17 March, 19:00 – 21:00</p> <p>Peter Mather (Group Vice president) and Iain Conn (Group Managing Director).</p> <p>No further information held. This meeting is the same as below.</p>
17th March - BP – Dinner	<p>BP Offices, 1 St James Square, 17 March, 19:00 – 21:00</p>



	<p>Peter Mather (Group Vice President and Iain Conn (Group Managing Director).</p> <p>No further information held.</p>
5th March - EEERG – Dinner	<p>With Simon Gray (CEO)</p> <p>Related email leading up to this dinner/meeting is released with this letter. Time of dinner was 18:00 – 20:00 at Norwich showground.</p>
March 2014 – EDF	<p>Vincent de Rivaz (Chief Executive)</p> <p>11 March, 17:30 – 18:00.</p> <p>A briefing note is withheld in accordance with the exceptions in Regulation 12(4) (e) and Regulation 12(3) of the EIRs.</p>

I hope you find this helpful.

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



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Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's
Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

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