

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 1174-15

'I would like to request, under FOIA , any available documents relating to Tobias Ellwood's March 2015 meeting with Shell to " Discuss situation in Iraq and region" – including any preparatory notes or emails, correspondence setting up the meeting, minutes, notes, follow-up and "thank you " emails or similar documents'

DIGEST OF NINE DOCUMENTS IDENTIFIED RELATING TO A MEETING BETWEEN FCO MINISTER TOBIAS ELLWOOD AND ANDY BROWN, SHELL ON 4 MARCH 2015

1) BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER'S MEETING WITH ANDY BROWN, SHELL UPSTREAM DIRECTOR. WED 4TH MARCH, 10.30-11AM.

STEER

You will be meeting with Andy Brown (AB), Shell Upstream Director. Mr Brown requested the meeting and would like to talk about the political/investment environment in the region. It will also be an opportunity for you to receive an update on Shell's current and planned operations in the MENA region, and to re-enforce the UK Government's support of Shell's work.

OBJECTIVES

To get an update on Shell's interests in the region, and underline UK Government support. This is also an opportunity for a general discussion on the state of the region, including the UK's role in promoting stability.

BACKGROUND

Andy Brown joined the Executive Committee of Royal Dutch Shell as Upstream International Director in April 2012. He is responsible for Shell's global upstream business outside the Americas, including exploration, production and integrated gas. This will be your first meeting with Andy Brown. A meeting was scheduled earlier in the year, but had to be cancelled. He met with Lord Livingston in January 2015 where Iraq, Iran and the impact of the fall in oil price on MENA featured in the discussion. Use 'Andy' for addressing him in conversation. AB is also meeting with PUS and Menna Rawlings, the new High Commissioner to Australia, this afternoon.

Background briefing was provided on Iran; Iraq; United Arab Emirates; and Algeria. The following points were included.

1. **Oman:** Shell is heavily involved in Oman through the technical expertise it brings, particularly on Enhanced Oil Recovery, and through job creation and SME development efforts.
2. **Tunisia.** The Tunisian economy needs foreign investment to revive the energy sector and Tunisia is carrying an energy deficit it cannot afford even at current prices.
3. **Syria:** The security situation in Syria is deteriorating, so our intention is to maintain oil sanctions. We are part of a diverse group of 60+ countries that are working together to degrade and defeat ISIL. Resolving grievances through inclusive governance in Syria and Iraq is at the heart of our strategy. We are also supporting those fighters on the ground opposed to ISIL, and cutting off ISIL's access to funds, fighters and other resources.

4. **If raised: Saudi Arabia.** As Saudi Aramco operates all oil production in Saudi Arabia, Shell is limited to downstream operations.
5. **If raised: Morocco.** We also see many other potential engineering, equipment, consultancy and financial opportunities for the UK supply chain in this project.

2) RECORD OF A MEETING BETWEEN FCO MINISTER TOBIAS ELLWOOD AND ANDY BROWN, SHELL

The meeting was attended by FCO Minister Tobias Ellwood, HM Ambassador Abu Dhabi, Philip Parham, Andy Brown, Upstream Director, Shell and other officials.

This was an introductory meeting between Minister Ellwood and Andy Brown. The meeting covered Shell's interests in the MENA region. The meeting included discussions as follows:

Qatar: Mr Ellwood noted that he had recently returned from Doha and there is a strong relationship with the UK, with Qatar being a key investor into the UK.

Oman: Shell noted their substantial interests in Oman. Mr Ellwood noted the UK's good relationship with Oman. Shell noted that it would be helpful to keep in touch.

Iran: Shell were interested in the prospects for a deal.

Iraq: Mr Ellwood asked about Shell interests in the north of Iraq – Shell currently do not have a presence there. Mr Ellwood said he hoped that it would be possible for British companies to operate both in Basra and Erbil.

Tunisia: Mr Ellwood mentioned his recent successful trip to Egypt with 50 British businesses, and the ambition to do something similar in Tunisia.

Libya: Shell has withdrawn all operations.

Algeria: Shell are back in Algeria, and noted their interest in maintaining contact with the FCO on security issues. Mr Ellwood stressed the enthusiasm in Algeria for British business.

Abu Dhabi and Egypt were also discussed.

3) INTERNAL FCO EMAIL EXCHANGES: REQUEST FOR BRIEFING AND RESPONSE FROM OFFICIALS

Email sent on 24 February between officials

Subject: FW: BRIEFING REQUEST: MR ELLWOOD MEETING WITH ANDY BROWN, SHELL UPSTREAM DIRECTOR- Deadline Monday 23rd February COP

Sorry for delay, having been very tied up today. The briefing request went to my old, dormant UKTI account which is why Private Office have not had a reply. Please note this is my main email address. The briefing is fine, though I would add a line on ongoing support.

I have just received a call chasing up her briefing request for Mr Ellwood's meeting on 4 March.

I have copied below the latest briefing I have on Shell. If this needs updating please could you provide that by COP today? If not, just send a nil return.

Kind regards,

Shell – In December 2014 the Moroccan Ministry of Energy published a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) roadmap, confirming that it will become a new importer of LNG early next decade.

1. The National Office of Electricity and Water (ONEE) will manage the project, and domestic and international participants will be selected by tender.
2. The project requires a consortium of solid and experienced companies.

Email sent on 16 February from International Energy Unit to officials

Subject: FW: BRIEFING REQUEST: MR ELLWOOD MEETING WITH ANDY BROWN, SHELL UPSTREAM DIRECTOR- Deadline Monday 23rd February COP

All,

Please see below for the briefing request from Minister Ellwood's private office between the Minister and Andy Brown, Shell's international director upstream. I am looking to pull this briefing together and have allocated country-specific points to cover below- if you think someone else is better placed to cover the briefing then let me know. Please outline clearly in your contributions the objective, points to make and background for your respective area. If you have any other comments on the broader ME aspects, please feel free to contribute!

The deadline for desk and post contributions is **COP on 23rd February**. Unfortunately I am on training in the period up to the meeting on the 4th March, so need to pull this together ahead of time- hence the advanced deadline for the briefing. Thanks for your understanding.

Email sent on 11 February 2015 16:18 by Minister Ellwood's office to officials

Subject: BRIEFING REQUEST: MR ELLWOOD MEETING WITH ANDY BROWN, SHELL UPSTREAM DIRECTOR, WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH

We have rescheduled the cancelled meeting between Minister Ellwood and Andy Brown, Shell International Director Upstream, for 1030-1100 on Wednesday 4 March. Mr Brown would like to talk about Shell operations (current and planned) in the MENA region, and then talk about the political/investment updates in the region. Shell have suggested that these issues would cover:

- Shell's position and operations in Iraq
- Shell's interests in Algeria and Morocco
- FCO's views on the future of the ME area

I'd be grateful if you could let us have some written briefing for this meeting (points to make; relevant background) for the box closing at 1500 on Tuesday 3 March. Could you or another official also attend a pre-brief with the Minister at 1000-1030 on Wednesday 4 March, and stay on to act as Notetaker during the meeting.

Many thanks,

Mr Tobias Ellwood MP | Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

4) EMAIL FROM OFFICIALS TO THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY UNIT

Email sent on 23 February 2015

Subject: FW: BRIEFING REQUEST: Shell/Mr Ellwood - Deadline end of this week

You asked for contributions to briefing for Mr Ellwood meeting Andy Brown, according to Shell's suggested agenda items. For KSA my suggestions as follows:

Background

Saudi King Abdullah died on 23 January 2015 after ten years on the throne and a further ten years as effective ruler while Crown Prince. Crown Prince Salman became King and Deputy Crown Prince Muqrin became Crown Prince. King Salman appointed Mohammed bin Naif (MbN), the Interior Minister, as Deputy Crown Prince, on the day of his accession. MbN is the first of the next generation to be placed formally into the line of succession.

Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman has long been known as the Deputy Oil Minister, although he has technically only been promoted to that role (from Assistant Minister) since his father came to the throne.

As Saudi Aramco operates all oil production in Saudi Arabia, Shell is limited to downstream operations.

5) EMAIL FROM OFFICIALS TO THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY UNIT

Email sent on 16 February 2015

Subject: FW: BRIEFING REQUEST: Shell/Mr Ellwood - Deadline end of this week

It was good to meet you both last week. Sorry to be sending work your way immediately, but we have received a briefing request for Middle East Minister Ellwood to meet the Shell Upstream Director.

I'm not sure how much we're going to be able to say, but I would welcome any thoughts / comments you may be able to offer by the end of this week, so that I can pull it together with some of the other briefing.

Many thanks

6) EMAIL FROM HMA ABU DHABI PHILIP PARHAM TO UKTI OFFICIALS

Email sent on 8 March 2015

I sat in on Andy Brown's (Shell) meeting with Mr Ellwood on 4 March. Someone from DECC attended and took a note, but I haven't seen her record. Andy described Shell's position to me.

7) EMAIL FROM OFFICIALS TO INTERNATIONAL ENERGY UNIT

Email sent: 16 February 2015 17:34

Subject: RE: BRIEFING REQUEST: MR ELLWOOD MEETING WITH ANDY BROWN, SHELL UPSTREAM DIRECTOR- Deadline Monday 23rd February COP

Thanks. To be aware that HMA (Philip Parham) will be in London that day so there may be scope for him to join the call.

Do let us have a draft in due course and we will provide comments. You should have all the relevant background

Thanks,

8) INTERNAL FCO EMAIL EXCHANGES: REQUEST FOR BRIEFING AND RESPONSE FROM OFFICIALS

Email sent: 23 February 2015 20:27

Subject: RE: BRIEFING REQUEST: MR ELLWOOD MEETING WITH ANDY BROWN, SHELL UPSTREAM DIRECTOR- Deadline Monday 23rd February COP OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

Thanks, good work. Please see suggestions below in red.

Email sent: 22 February 2015 20:27

Subject: RE: BRIEFING REQUEST: MR ELLWOOD MEETING WITH ANDY BROWN, SHELL UPSTREAM DIRECTOR- Deadline Monday 23rd February COP OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

Please see below draft points to make and background in response to the larger briefing request below. Separately I spoke with IEU today (Friday 20 Feb), and will provide background on the concessions by 2 March to allow them to be as up to date as they can be given the fluidity of the current discussions.

Point to make:

- Overall we have a strong working relationship with the UAE based on a history of cooperation, friendship and open dialogue. As a sign of the strength tomorrow I am hosting the UK-UAE Taskforce here in London. We meet twice a year at Ministerial level and discuss a wide range of issues
- But it is not just our bilateral relationship that matters, more importantly as the UAE has recovered from its financial crisis we have seen them step up to become a reliable political and military partner on many important areas of foreign policy cooperation

The UAE: Background

- The UK-UAE Taskforce came out of the Gulf Initiative.
- The UAE is the UK's largest civil export market in the Middle East, and 11th biggest globally; there are an estimated 4,000 British companies operating in the market. Bilateral trade reached £12.4 billion two years ahead of the target set by the government of £12bn by 2015, with UK exports amounting to £8.6bn. Key sectors for the UK in the UAE are: infrastructure (construction and mass transport), energy, aerospace, defence and security, education and training, financial and professional services, and creative industries and media
- The UAE have become an active member of the international anti-ISIL coalition.

9) INTERNAL FCO EMAIL EXCHANGES: REQUEST FOR BRIEFING AND RESPONSE FROM OFFICIALS

Email sent: 01 March 2015 17:59

Subject: RE: Shell briefing, comments required by 1400hrs GMT 2 March OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

Hi,

Please see in blue from the two of us. HAM will try attend the meeting so would be great if we could have sight of the final draft before then.

Email sent: 28 February 2015 23:17

Subject: Shell briefing, comments required by 1400hrs GMT 2 March OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

As discussed I agreed to feed in Shell briefing to DECC for Monday 2 March. This briefing is for the meeting between Mr Ellwood and Andy Brown on 4 March.

Please see below a point to make and short background (I will ask DECC to include my previous update note as part of the background).