



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

www.gov.uk/decc

REDACTED
REDACTED

Email: REDACTED

Our ref: FOI2015/05487
Your ref:02DEC453

12 May 2015

Dear REDACTED

I refer to your e-mail of 11 March in which you asked:

1) I am seeking information on correspondence between DECC senior staff based in the OUGO and The Health and Safety Executive concerning shale gas that focus on well integrity, sub surface aquifers or leaks.

I am requesting correspondence generated in the period beginning 01/06/2014 and continuing up to the present day, or as close as possible to it (i.e. the date this request or any subsequent appeal is processed).

I am looking for information concerning any of the following sites.

***Preston New Road
Roseacre wood
Grange Hill,
Preese hall,
Ince marshes
Ellesmere Port
Barton Moss
Kirby Misperton
Wisborough Green
Fernhurst***

Please ensure that your search for correspondence includes:

- ***Email correspondence (including attachments)***
- ***Transcripts***
- ***Memos***

- **Reports**
- **Briefing documents or the equivalent**
- **Letters**
- **Telephone records and any notes made during and after telephone calls**
- **Correspondence includes any other type of correspondence frequently used**

by the department, including text messages and private emails

2) I am seeking information on meetings between any DECC senior staff based in the OUGO and The Health and Safety Executive concerning shale gas that focus on well integrity, sub surface aquifers or leaks.

I am requesting information on meetings in the period beginning 01/06/2014 and continuing up to the present day, or as close as possible. (i.e. the date this request or any subsequent appeal is processed).

I am looking for information concerning any of the following sites.

Preston New Road

Roseacre wood

Grange Hill,

Preese hall,

Ince marshes

Ellesmere Port

Barton Moss

Kirby Misperton

Wisborough Green

Fernhurst

Please provide:

- **Any meeting minutes**
- **Meeting readouts**
- **Briefing notes**
- **Or other meeting memoranda**

Please also provide information on meetings including:

- **Date**
- **Time**
- **Place**
- **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 (EIRs) because the information you seek falls within the definition of “environmental information” as stated in the EIRs.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the Department holds information falling within the terms of your request under point one. The Department does not hold any information relating to point two of your request other than already included in the information under point one. Copies of the information are attached in **Annex A**.

After careful examination, DECC considers that some of the information is exempt from disclosure under Regulation 13(1), relating to the disclosure of personal data. Regulation 13(1) of the EIRs is an absolute exception and is not subject to a public interest test.

Regulation 13(1) of the EIRs

Some of the information constitutes personal data and has been withheld. Regulation 13(1) of the EIRs provides an absolute exception from disclosure for personal data, which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act (DPA).

Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed under 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 DPA. We do not think it is fair to release the names and contact details of DECC staff below Senior Civil Service level, or staff in other organisations, and do not think that any of the relevant conditions in Schedule 2 of the DPA apply.

Appeals Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the result of your request for information, you may request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter. If you wish to request an internal review, please contact:

The Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)
Department of Business, Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street, London
SW1H 0ET

Email: foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Please 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, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Office of Unconventional Gas and Oil