



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

British High Commission
Commonwealth Avenue,
Yarralumla ACT 2600
Australia

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

06 November 2105

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REQUEST (EIR) - REF: EIR 009-15

Thank you for your email of 13 June 2015 asking for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). You asked:

'This is an Environmental Information Regulations request for correspondence and details of meetings between a number of coal companies/organisations and the High Commission. I am making this request because I believe that, at such a crucial stage in the UNFCCC process, there is a strong public interest in transparency regarding the relationship between major coal producers, their representatives and the UK government.

1. *I am seeking information on correspondence between the High Commission and the following companies and organisations:*

- *Glencore*
- *Anglo American*
- *BHP Billiton*
- *Peabody Energy*
- *World Coal Association*
- *Minerals Council of Australia*

I would be grateful if you could use keywords in the terms listed above to search your records systems as part of your efforts to locate information. I am requesting correspondence generated in the period beginning September 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).

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 details of meetings between High Commission officials and representatives of the following organisations from September 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):

- *Glencore*
- *World Coal Association*
- *Anglo American*
- *BHP Billiton*
- *Peabody Energy*
- *Minerals Council of Australia*

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)'*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested. We have interpreted your question as relating to our Post in Canberra only. I can confirm that the British High Commission, Canberra, does hold information relevant to your request.

The British High Commission meets with a range of external organisations to further improve its efforts to promote UK objectives overseas, including building Britain's prosperity by increasing exports and investment, opening markets, ensuring access to resources, and promoting sustainable global growth.

Where possible, the information has been included in full but we were unable to disclose personal data contained in an e-mail, which we consider to be exempt under section 13(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle, which states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle, which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. Regulation 13 confers an absolute exception on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

Please find below and attached the information that the British High Commission in Canberra can release to you:

- The former British High Commissioner met the CEO of BHP Billiton on 26 September 2014 in Melbourne, Australia. Attendees were: British High Commissioner, Paul Madden; CEO of BHP Billiton, Andrew MacKenzie; British Consul-General Melbourne, Gareth Hoar.
- An e-mail between British High Commission Senior Economist and BHP Billiton staff member regarding the above-mentioned meeting. Please see attached e-mail.
- British High Commission Senior Economist attended a boardroom lunch on 9 September, 2014 organised by the Australian-British Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by BHP Billiton. Philip Lowe, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, was the guest speaker and the meeting took place at BHP Billiton's offices at 171 Collins Street, Melbourne, Australia. We do not hold the attendees list.

Once an EIR request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response and any material released on gov.uk in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

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Yours sincerely,

British High Commission, Canberra



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