



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

By email

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gov.uk/decc
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Ref No: 13/0929

Dear ,

Thank you for your e-mail dated 16 July 2013 in which you requested the following information:-

This is a request for information regarding oil spillages from offshore platforms in UK waters. Between 2000 and 2011 4,123 such incidents lead to 8,582 barrels of oil being released into UK waters. I hope that you will agree that there is a public interest in knowing who is responsible for these incidents, as well as how and why they occur.

I understand that for every reported spillage from an offshore platform, DECC should receive a report from the permit holder or operator of the offshore platform. As I understand, the information submitted in this report is outlined in your document "Petroleum Operations Notice No.1" (PON 1).

1. Please provide the database of information regarding spillages reported between 2000 and the date of this request.

i) It is my understanding that this information should encompass all information given in the PON 1 form, provided at p8 of the reporting guidance attached for your reference.

ii) I would be grateful if this information could be provided in database form, preferably in a spreadsheet (preferably .xls format)

We consider that the information that you have requested constitutes environmental information for the purposes of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). Accordingly, your request has been dealt with under the terms of the EIRs.



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Under these regulations, you have the right to:

- Know whether we hold the information you have requested and;
- Be provided with that information (subject to any exceptions which may apply).

The Department does hold information that falls within the scope of your request.

DECC currently publishes in depth PON1 data for 2007 to date (latest publication 1 August 2013) on our website. This includes all the pertinent information submitted on the PON1 forms. This data can be found at the following link;

<https://www.gov.uk/oil-and-gas-environmental-data#pon-1-data>

I have attached spreadsheets containing the in depth PON1 data for 2000-2006 to the accompanying email.

Part of the information you requested is being withheld as it falls under the exception in Regulation 12 (4) (d) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 which relates to material which is still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data. In applying this exception we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure, applying, of course, the presumption in favour of disclosure as required by regulation 12(2) of the EIRs.

There is a general public interest in favour of disclosure of information as greater transparency makes government more open and accountable. We also acknowledge the current public interest in environmental issues and in particular where those may raise questions over public safety.

However it is not in the public interest if information is released prematurely and out of context. Releasing information prematurely and without the benefit of the necessary analysis or consideration has the potential to mislead the public. This could create the burden of additional and unnecessary administration, and more importantly, mismanagement of the flow of information. It is in the public interest to ensure that information is managed effectively. We consider that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing this part of the information at this time.

This is specifically relating to PON1s submitted between 3 July and 16 July which are yet to be published. Operators have 28 days to amend the data



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submitted on a PON1 therefore we do not publish any PON1s which we received less than 28 days ago.

We expect this information to be published on the DECC website on or around 1 September 2013.

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 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to the Information Rights Unit

Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
E-mail: foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk

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

Energy Development Unit