



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
www.gov.uk/decc

Our ref: 13/1206

29 October 2013

Dear xxxxxx,

Thank you for your email of 03 September 2013 where you requested the following information:

Please provide any correspondence in the last 2 years between yourselves regarding methane gas extraction or shale gas extraction with:

- a) Stoke-on-Trent City Council*
- b) Staffordshire County Council*
- c) Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.*

We have considered your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs') as the information you have sought disclosure of, does in our view, fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in the EIRs.

After a thorough search through our files and staff inbox's we have identified five emails that fall under the scope of these requests, copies of all of these are attached.

Some personal information has been redacted from your copy of this information. Regulation 12(3) and 13 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 Servant level, or staff in other organisations, and do not think that any of the relevant conditions in Schedule 2 of the DPA apply. As a result, the names and contact details of staff in DECC below Senior Civil Servant level and staff in other organisations have been redacted from your copy of this information.

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 at:

Information Rights Unit

Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
E-mail: foi.requests@bis.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,

Office for Unconventional Gas and Oil
Department of Energy and Climate Change,
3 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2AW