



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW

E: foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/decc

Our ref: 13/1531

22 November 2013

RE: Request for Information

Thank you for your email dated 30 October 2013 to the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) where you requested the following information:

For the period from 2002 to present, please provide me with:

- a) Details of all funding provided by your organisation to the Science Media Centre - including dates of payments, amounts paid, and details of what was being paid for;
- b) A copy of all correspondence in relation to funding between your organisation and the Science Media Centre;
- c) A copy of any contracts or Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between your organisation and the Science Media Centre.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

For ease of reference, I will address the individual segments of your request in the order which you make them.

Segment a) Details of all funding provided by your organisation to the Science Media Centre - including dates of payments, amounts paid, and details of what was being paid for;

Date of payment: 26 March 2010.

Amount paid: £20,000.

Purpose of payment: Funding support for a training course for scientists on communicating climate science.

Segment b) A copy of all correspondence in relation to funding between your organisation and the Science Media Centre;

A search of DECC's records, starting from the Department's formation in October 2008, identified limited information within scope of this segment of your request. The information which can be disclosed, is attached.

Some of the information that you requested is exempt under section 40 (personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), as the information constitutes personal data relating to identified individuals including third party data.

In this case, the Department considers that the names of junior officials within DECC fall within the ambit of the first Data Protection Principle, that the Personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully and, in particular, must not be processed unless at least one of the conditions in Schedule 2 to the DPA is met.

Section 40(2)(a)(iii) and section 40(3)(a)(i) apply to information whose disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 1998 (or certain other provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998). This exempts information constituting the personal data of living individuals, the release of which would be in breach of the Department's obligations in respect of the Data Protection Principles as set out in the Data Protection Act. The definition of personal information to which section 40 applies is wide and can include references to identifiable individuals.

Our view is that release of this information would not be fair and that none of the conditions of Schedule 2 are met. The exemption from the duty to disclose personal data where to do so would breach a data protection principle is an absolute exemption; the public interest test in section 2 of the FOI Act does not apply.

Segment c) A copy of any contracts or Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between your organisation and the Science Media Centre

We have not found any contracts or Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between DECC and the Science Media Centre.

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 two months 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 (DECC Shared Services)
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
E-mail: foi.requests@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

**Climate Science Observation and International Team
Science and Innovation Group**

