

**Department of Energy &
Climate Change**

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
T: +44 (0)300 068 0000
F: +44 (0)300 068 0000
M: +44 (0)7000 000000
E: a.person@decc.gsi.gov.uk
www.decc.gov.uk

REDACTED

Via email address: REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED

Our ref: 11/1202

DD MM YYYY

Dear REDACTED

RE: FOI request – Who is spraying the sky with weather-modifying chemicals

Thank you for your email of 8 September 2011 where you requested information about a geo-engineering programme and spraying of sulphur or aluminium into UK skies.

DECC is not participating in, or funding, any such activity. To the best of our knowledge, there are no geo-engineering programmes taking place in the UK that involve spraying weather-modifying chemicals into the sky. A search of our paper and electronic records confirms this view. We are, therefore, not able to answer the following questions:

- Who is flying the planes?
- Who owns them?
- What are they spraying – every compound please?
- What information/toxicity data is being gathered.
- Are they complying with the law that states that any chemical or pollutant emitted into the sky must fall to ground within 5 years as to avoid build up of toxic particles?

We also hold no information regarding any activities at Porton Down to spray the UK public with such chemicals.

The only geo-engineering research which DECC has funded is computer-modelling studies at the Met Office Hadley Centre. These studies aim to improve understanding of the environmental impacts of some of the highest profile geo-engineering techniques, including low-level cloud brightening and injection of sulphate aerosol into the upper atmosphere.

You may be aware that there are currently two geo-engineering studies underway, jointly funded by the Natural Environment Research Council and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council: the Integrated Assessment of Geo-engineering Proposals (IAGP) project and the Stratospheric Particle Injection for Climate Engineering (SPICE) project. Neither of these projects will be performing geo-engineering.

The IAGP project aims to develop a framework for assessing the risks, benefits and costs of a range of proposed geo-engineering techniques. SPICE will look specifically at the impacts, efficacy, costs and feasibility of placing sulphate particles into the stratosphere. It will also conduct small-scale field tests to assess the engineering feasibility of injecting sulphate into the atmosphere via a tethered balloon. Please note, however, that the intention is to spray water, and not sulphates, during these tests and no effect on the weather or climate is expected.

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 addressed to the Department.

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,