



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

www.gov.uk/decc

Our ref: EIR 2014/22888

REDACTED

11 November 2014

E-mail: REDACTED

Dear REDACTED

Thank you for your e-mail of 14 October 2014 in which you asked:

*I should like copies of all correspondence between **DECC** and the **Geological Society of London** concerning the planning of what was eventually entitled the 'ShaleUK' **shale conference held in London in March 2014**. This was a conference held to promote the development of shale gas and oil resources in the UK.*

My understanding from the conferences organisers Global Event Partners is that DECC initially approached the Geological Society with a view to the latter sponsoring the conference. The name 'ShaleUK' may not have been used at the initial stages of the discussion.

We have considered your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) because the information you seek falls within the definition of "environmental information" as stated in the EIRs.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established the Department holds information within the term of the first paragraph of your request. DECC considers that some of the information exempt from disclosure under regulation 13(1) of the EIR which relates to personal data. Redacted copies of this information are attached in **annex A** of this letter.

Regulation 13(1) of the EIRs provides an absolute exception from disclosure for personal data, which falls under the Data Protection Act (DPA). Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed in accordance with 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 Service 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 Service level and in other organisations have been redacted from your copy of this information.

The Department holds no information relating to the second paragraph of your request, about DECC initially approaching the Geological Society with a view to the latter sponsoring the conference.

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

Please 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

Annex A:

FOI/EIR REF: FOI2014/22888 Correspondence between DECC and Geological Society regarding March 2014 'ShaleUK' conference

From: Figueira Duarte (Energy Development)
Sent: 18 February 2014 09:17
To: REDACTED
Subject: RE: Shale UK

REDACTED

Thanks – you should have had my bio and photo by now and I'll send you the presentation in the next week or so.

Regards

Duarte

From: Nic Bilham [mailto:REDACTED@geolsoc.org.uk]
Sent: 17 February 2014 19:43
To: Figueira Duarte (Energy Development)
Cc: REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED@gep-events.com
Subject: RE: Shale UK

Dear Duarte

Many thanks, that's excellent news. Delighted to hear you are able to offer a talk. Coming at the end of a programme focusing on the geoscience relevant to understanding potential shale gas resources and their safe extraction, your talk will provide a fitting close to the event. If you were able to include some reference to the ways in which geologists contribute to delivery of this policy objective, that would add further still to the coherence of the event.

I see that REDACTED REDACTED (from Global Event Partners, copied in here) has been in contact about practical arrangements. As he says, we will ensure that your talk is scheduled to allow plenty of time for you to get there.

Very glad to hear some members of your team will also be able to join us. If you could let me have the names of the people likely to take up these places (whether for all or just part of the conference), we will pre-register them so they are expected on the day – although if someone else takes their place at the last minute that won't be a problem.

I look forward to meeting you on 5 March.

With best wishes

Nic

Nic Bilham
Director of Policy and Communications

Email: REDACTED@geolsoc.org.uk
Tel: REDACTED
Fax: REDACTED
Web: www.geolsoc.org.uk

The Geological Society
Burlington House
Piccadilly
London
W1J 0BG

From: REDACTED <mailto:REDACTED@gep-events.com>]

Sent: 17 February 2014 15:55

To: Figueira Duarte (Energy Development)

Cc: Nic Bilham; REDACTED

Subject: Shale UK

Good afternoon Duarte

I am working with Nic to put together all the logistics for the conference, Shale UK. Thank you very much for your confirmation and look forward to meeting you.

Your session is on 5th March and I understand that you can be there at 16:00, so we'll schedule towards the end of that session which will be a very good way to close. I would really appreciate it if you can send me your presentation in advance by email (preferred in powerpoint).

In the first instance this week would you be able to send me your photograph and a short biography (around 100 words) for inclusion in the printed programme?

Please feel free to contact me at any time

Kind regards

REDACTED

REDACTED

Shale UK

Tel: REDACTED

Mob: REDACTED

www.shaleuk.com

This e-mail contained two attachments: Speakers Guidelines and Shale UK Programme – draft, 17 Feb.

From: Figueira Duarte (Energy Development)

Sent: 17 February 2014 14:56

To: REDACTED@geolsoc.org.uk

Cc: REDACTED REDACTED

Subject: Shale UK

Nic

as asked me to do this, as it's a policy presentation which is requested.

I'm afraid that due to the short notice, I have an immovable meeting until 3 and I could not undertake to be with you before 4 pm. I would send the presentation in beforehand. The Title would be 'Shale Gas policy in the UK - Realising economic potential, safely and responsibly'. Happy to take some questions.

I think your conference would be excellent training for my team as well as allowing networking by your delegates with DECC and vice-versa so I would also like 2 free places to attend for my team, one for each

day, as per your offer. If possible, could I ask that my team members share each ticket ie if one comes am and one pm on each day. We can often be too busy to attend the whole day.

Many thanks

Duarte

Duarte Figueira | Head - Office of Unconventional Gas and Oil
Department of Energy and Climate Change | 3 Whitehall Place | London SW1A 2AW
✉ email: REDACTED@decc.gsi.gov.uk | ☎ tel REDACTED

From: Nic Bilham [mailto:REDACTED@geolsoc.org.uk]

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 04:01 PM GMT Standard Time

To: REDACTED REDACTED

Subject: Shale UK 2014 - Geological Society / Global Event Partners conference

Dear REDACTED

The Geological Society is working with Global Event Partners to deliver an innovative conference on shale gas on 4-5 March 2014 at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel, London. Shale UK 2014 will present an authoritative state-of-the-art view of the geoscience relevant to shale gas exploration, production and environmental management in the UK. We will bring together the leading experts in relevant areas of geology, from the UK, US and elsewhere, with decision makers, potential investors, others in the hydrocarbons and energy supply chain, and others stakeholders with an interest in shale gas. I attach a short document outlining the purpose of the conference, and the reasons the Geological Society and Global Event Partners are working together, along with a draft programme.

I am writing to ask whether you would give a talk in the closing session of the conference. If you are able to accept our invitation, we would ask you to make a presentation of 20-24 minutes in duration, which will be followed by 6-10 minutes of questions. Our conference is firmly focused on the geoscience of shale gas, and the closing session will address how this science sits alongside other factors to inform political, financial and commercial decision-making. Given your role as the REDACTED REDACTED at DECC liaising with officials and politicians, it would really help to put the high quality science programme of the previous two days in context if our delegates could hear about your role, and your take on how geological considerations sit alongside other factors in framing and implementing policy. I think this would be more relevant than setting out government's current policy on shale gas per se (which I suspect in any case you might be reluctant to do). It's your perspective as a REDACTED working in government which I think would be really valuable.

As a speaker you would of course be welcome to attend the event free of charge. We would also be delighted to offer free additional free places to any colleagues at DECC who you think might be interested. I'm sorry to ask at such short notice – while the rest of the programme is well settled, organising the closing session has been rather disrupted.

Please let me know if you have questions or would like to discuss the matter.

With best wishes

Nic

Nic Bilham
Director of Policy and Communications

Email: REDACTED@geolsoc.org.uk
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The Geological Society
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This e-mail also contained two attachments: ***Shale UK 2014 – purpose of conference; and
Shale UK Programme – draft Jan 31st 2014***