Campaign for Freedom of Information
via email:

Ref No: 12/0827

25 June 2012

Dear

Thank you for your email received on 25 May 2012 in which you requested information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested the following:

> *Could you please:*
>
> *(a) inform us whether the Department of Energy and Climate Change took part in the exercise to cost the FOI/EIR requests received during a one week period*
>
> *(b) if you did take part, could you please supply us with the costing information which you provided to the researchers carrying out this exercise. We understand this information would have been provided separately for each request on the pro forma document shown on page 32 of the report. We would prefer to receive this information in electronic form if possible.*

Under 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).

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Energy and Climate Change did take part in the Ipsos MORI costing research exercise. Please find attached the pro forma documents we provided for each request.

Some personal information (names of individuals and DECC staff) has been redacted or withheld **section 40(2)** of the FOI Act. This provides an absolute exemption for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act. 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 Data Protection Act. We do not think that it is fair to release the names of junior members of staff or third parties and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.

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 Catherine

Harding at either the email or office address given at the end of this letter.

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.

Many thanks

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