

Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
T: +44(0)300 060 4000
www.decc.gov.uk

14 March 2012

Our Ref: FoI Request 12/0268

Dear,

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email request of February 17, 2012 in which you asked for the following:

My request relates to a meeting between Ed Miliband, the then secretary of state for energy and climate change, and representatives of the energy company EDF, on February 4 2010 to discuss "energy issues".

Under the act, I would like a brief description of this meeting. Under the act, I would also like to request complete copies of the minutes and agenda of this meeting. I would also like to request complete copies of all and any documents (such as briefing material, letters, memos, emails, memorandums of conversations) which were prepared for or connected with this meeting, either before or after the event.

I would also like to ask your department, on answering this request, to provide a schedule of documents which are relevant to this request. I believe that there should be a brief description of each relevant document including the nature of the document, the date of the document, and whether the document is being released or not. I believe that providing such a schedule would clarify what documents are being released and what is being withheld, and would also represent best practice in open government.

I have carried out a search of our electronic and paper records and have identified the following information as being in scope.

Date	Organisation	Purpose of Meeting	Details
4 February 2010	Ed Miliband met with Vincent de Rivaz, Chief Executive of EDF	Energy issues	Note of meeting withheld, no other records held. Meeting held at the Department.

The note of this meeting is being withheld under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 section 35 (1)(a) and (b) which provides an exemption to the disclosure of internal communications if they relate to the formulation or development of Government policy and ministerial communications. This exemption is subject to a public interest test. Having considered the public interest, the Department has taken the decision to withhold the information you requested.

The Department would like to state that releasing internal communications, such as internal meeting notes, would inhibit the ability of officials to provide Ministers and senior officials with free and frank advice as well as keep free and frank records of stakeholder meetings. This would have a detrimental effect on the briefing process, leading civil servants to be less candid in their views. It would also affect policy development, as it would prove difficult in taking account of the views expressed by stakeholders if records were not kept. Such outcomes would be likely to prejudice the conduct of public affairs, as this could result in less well informed Ministers and less well informed briefing packs.

Appeals procedure

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information, you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you wish to request an internal review, please contact me.

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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,