

Our ref: 13/0101

20<sup>th</sup> February 2013

**ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REQUEST : 13/0101**

I refer to your e-mail of 18 January which made the following request:

*Without prejudice to the foregoing, please provide information held by DECC and generated during the period 18 January 2012 to date relating to the assessment of the estimated or likely fugitive methane emissions from shale gas activities. By shale gas activities I mean exploration for, and (where applicable), production of shale gas in the UK.*

We have considered your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) as the information you have sought disclosure of, does in our view, fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in the EIRs.

There are two reports that fall within the nature of the request which are in the public domain:

An Environment Agency report from August 2012 entitled "Monitoring and control of fugitive methane from unconventional gas operations" This report can be viewed here:

<http://cdn.environment-agency.gov.uk/scho0812buwk-e-e.pdf>

A report which AEA prepared for the EU entitled "Climate impact of potential shale gas production in the EU" This report can be viewed here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/eccp/docs/120815\\_final\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/eccp/docs/120815_final_report_en.pdf)

An e-mail from between DECC and the Environment Agency entitled "Shale gas - monitoring fugitive methane" is attached at Annex A

A report commissioned by DECC was received during this period which is not in the public domain entitled "NAEI Briefing Note: Shale Gas Exploration and Production and impacts on the UK GHG Inventory" This is attached at Annex B

A note provided to DECC's Chief Scientist entitled "Carbon intensity of Shale Gas" is attached at Annex C.

Regulations 12(3) & 13 – Personal Data Regulation 12(3) & 13 provide an exception to disclosure of personal data. 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 third parties and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.

### **Appeals procedure**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Under Regulation 11(2) of the EIRs a request for an internal review should be submitted no later than 40 working days after the date of this letter. If you wish to request an internal review please contact 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. Contact details: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.