

**Department of Energy
& Climate Change**

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2HD
www.decc.gov.uk

09 June 2009

Mr John Simpson
request-11264-f399828f@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref 09/0660

Dear Mr Simpson

**RE: Freedom of Information Request –Meetings with ‘non believers’
Provision of information**

Thank you for your clarification to your original request of 5 May 2009 on the above subject which we received on 13 May 2009. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act of 2000.

For convenience we reproduce below the clarification that you provided.

“Thank you very much for your reply to my Freedom of Information request and im sorry i was not more clear before. The information i seek is limited to groups and organisations which hold one or all of the following views..

- 1) - That do not think climate change / global warming is happening
- 2) - That do not think climate change / global warming is as serious as the government / media suggests
- 3) - That do not think man is responsible for the change at all
- 4) - That thinks man is partly responsible but not the main cause there for any change in policy is pointless
- 5) - That thinks climate change / global warming is a good thing and should not be seen as a threat
- 6) - That thinks any attempt to limit or reduce global warming / climate change is pointless because the world is doomed
- 7) - That thinks the governments current policy will damage the economy too much or that any action on this matter is too costly
- 8) - That thinks the government should focus on responding to climate change rather than preventing it.(For example investing more in sea walls so a rise in sea levels isn't a threat to the United Kingdom instead of trying to save the world)

I've tried to cover all the info im looking for, basically those groups / organisations which are non believers or that think its too costly to do anything to prevent it from happening. If that is not limited enough then please let me know and ill try to clarify my request again thanks."

Your original request specified that you were seeking a list of organisations that you regard as climate change "non believers" that have sought meetings with the Department from the time it was established. The Department of Energy & Climate Change was created on 3 October 2008, hence this reply covers the period from that date to the present. A further point to note is that in order to simplify the task of answering your request, this has been interpreted to mean those organisations that have requested a meeting, or some kind of engagement, with the Department specifically with the intention of challenging government policy relating directly to the eight categories listed above. This is to distinguish from organisations, e.g. business organisations, which, although possibly holding some of the views listed in the above categories, had discussions with the Department on unrelated issues.

With the above points in mind, there is only one organisation that we are aware of that requested a meeting or engagement with the Department that would seem to fit the above criteria. Whilst this organisation would agree that human greenhouse gas emissions will cause climate change, their view is that current government policy to reduce emissions will only postpone "inevitable environmental disaster" a view which seems consistent with category 6 of your list. This organisation, The FREdome Visionary Trust who appear to be based at Watford, advocate an alternative solution to climate change, and they sent an invitation to the Department's Secretary of State, Mr Ed Miliband, in October last year to be a keynote speaker at an event that was to be held in Watford in March 2009. This event was to present a concept that was claimed to be aimed at solving many of the world's environmental problems including climate change. Mr Miliband declined the invitation. More information on FREdome can be found at the website www.FREdome.org.

In closing, it should be mentioned that the Department receives a great deal of correspondence from so called anthropogenic (human caused) climate change 'non believers' (usually from individuals) particularly with respect to the first four of your listed categories, and this seems to be their preferred mode of contact. The Department's policy regarding such correspondence is always to respond as far as possible within about 20 days of receipt.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. I also attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the services you have received.

Yours sincerely
Paul Munro
Climate and Energy: Science and Analysis
Email paul.munro@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Annex

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

Please write to the responding officer who will then arrange with BERR's Information Rights Unit an internal review of your case.

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. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted BERR's own complaints procedure. Contact details for The Information Commissioner are on their website at <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>.