

Mr. David Holland

23 May 2011

Dear Mr Holland

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004 – INFORMATION REQUEST (FOI_11-048; EIR_11-005)

The appeal you have made of our handling of your original request on 2 March 2011 made under Environmental Information Regulations (our reference EIR_11-005) has been passed to me for review under the University's appeal process as described in our code of practice¹. In your appeal you have asked that we review our refusal to disclose under the following exemptions:

- 12(5)(a) – Adverse effect on international relations
- 12(5)(f) – Adverse effects on person providing information
- 12(3) & 13(1) – Personal information.

I have reviewed the file and supporting documentation.

12(5)(a) – Adverse effect on international relations

In coming to his decision Mr. Palmer contacted the IPCC WG1 Secretariat and sought their view on the release of the information you requested. In their response to us sent on 23 March, the IPCC WG1 Secretariat have made it clear that all material sent by them to members of the IPCC WGI author teams is not intended for public distribution and the IPCC WGI Secretariat have not given us permission to release the information you have requested.

The IPCC WGI Secretariat have also made it clear that the release of confidential documents would force them to reconsider working arrangement both with UEA and others within the United Kingdom.

Given this evidence I agree with Mr. Palmer's application of exemption 12(5)(a).

¹ www.uea.ac.uk/is/strategies/infregs/FOIA+Code+of+Practice+for+Responding+to+Requests

12(5)(f) – Adverse effects on person providing information

The response from the IPPC WGI Secretariat of 23 March does not make it clear what the adverse effect on them would be of releasing the requested information. However in earlier correspondence from the IPPC WGI Secretariat has made it clear that release of information of the type you have requested would have an adverse effect on them and on this basis I agree with Mr. Palmer's application of exemption 12(5)(f).

12(3) & 13(1) – Personal information

The response from the IPPC WGI Secretariat of 23 March does not provide consent for us to release personal data of individuals in the IPCC WGI TSU.

Given this statement I agree with Mr. Palmer's application of exemptions 12(3) and 13(1).

12(1)(b) – Public interest

I have reviewed Mr. Palmer's application of the public interest test and agree with his assessment that the public interest lies in non-disclosure.

As previously stated the IPCC WGI Secretariat have also made it clear that the release of confidential documents would force them to reconsider working arrangements both with UEA and others within the United Kingdom. I believe that there is a strong public interest in the continuing working relationship between UK experts on climate change and the IPCC. The opportunity to work on international projects with organisations such as the IPCC is vital to UK research into climate change; it both enhances the reputation of the UK and has potential positive economic benefits. If researchers were denied this type opportunity then they may well leave the UK in order to seek such opportunities. We believe that the public interest lies with ensuring that UK experts are able to participate in international projects and collaborations and that this outweighs the arguments in favour of release.

We would now consider this to be our final position on the internal review of this matter, and would advise that if you are dissatisfied with this response, you should now exercise your right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
[Website: www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Please quote our reference given at the head of this letter in all correspondence

Yours,

Jonathan Colam-French
Director of Information Services