



# Oil & Gas Authority

21 Bloomsbury  
London WC1B 3HF

Russell Scott

By email to: [request-366760-f1eb3549@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-366760-f1eb3549@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our ref: FOI-2016-0009

14 November 2016

Dear Russell Scott,

Thank you for your email of 18 October 2016, in which you request:

“Dear Toni,

Please can you confirm which companies have issued the OGA with a completed PON14b form, and for which PEDL blocks.

<https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/exploration-production/petroleum-operations-notice/pon-14b/>

Please can you also provide a copy of the completed forms along with A4 maps attached to the PON14B.

Kind Regards

Russell Scott”

We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Under FOIA you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the FOIA which may apply).

Your request is refused in accordance with Section 12 of the FOIA, which states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed an appropriate limit.

Oil and Gas Authority is a limited company registered in England and Wales with registered number 09666504 and VAT registered number 249433979. Our registered office is at 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, United Kingdom, WC1B 3HF.

For information about how we process data and monitor communications please see our Data Protection Statement and for terms of use please see our Terms and Conditions, both available on our website.



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From our preliminary assessment, we estimate that complying with your request would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £600 provided under Section 12 of the Act. This represents an estimated cost of spending 3.5 working days / 24 complete hours of continuous staff time at a flat rate of £25 per hour: (i) determining whether The Oil and Gas Authority holds the information and (ii) locating, retrieving and extracting it.

So far as it is relevant, we have also considered the request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

After careful examination of your requests under the EIRs, we have determined that Regulation 12(4)(b) would apply. Regulation 12(4)(b) states that a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that the request for information is manifestly unreasonable. We have applied a presumption in favour of disclosure as required by Regulation 12(2).

In applying this exception, we recognise that disclosure could enhance public understanding of the Government's engagement with external organisations and facilitate the accountability and transparency of Government decisions.

The time period and the nature of the information concerned have not been specified, therefore gathering the information you requested would mean trawling through several different drives and paper files, which would involve incurring a substantial and unreasonable burden on The Oil and Gas Authority, as well as a significant cost and diversion of resources from the teams concerned and The Oil and Gas Authority's other work. We consider the balance of the public interest lies in favour of withholding the information, and we will therefore not process your request as currently drafted at this stage.

The Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with requests where the estimated cost of complying would exceed this appropriate limit. For the reasons expressed above, we will not process this part of your request, as currently drafted, at this stage.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope. This could be done, for example by specifying which particular licenses or land blocks you are interested in or a time period and geographical area that you are interested in (bearing in mind that older licenses are stored off site in paper files and will be the most difficult to retrieve). I should, however, point out that if the scope of your request is reformulated, exceptions to disclosure may still apply under FOIA and/or EIR.



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## Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of those parts of your request considered under FOIA and EIRs, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the Information Rights Unit:

Strategy Directorate  
Oil and Gas Authority  
21 Bloomsbury Street  
London  
WC1B 3HF  
Email: [foirequests@ogauthority.co.uk](mailto:foirequests@ogauthority.co.uk)

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.

Yours sincerely,

Strategy Directorate