



Oil & Gas Authority

21 Bloomsbury
London WC1B 3HF

Benjamin Dean

By email to: request-445323-01486808@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: FOI-2017-0075

8 December 2017

Dear Mr Dean,

Thank you for your emails of 10 November 2017 in which you requested:

"Dear Oil and Gas Authority,

Please treat this email as a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, alternatively the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

PEDL126 commenced 1 July 2003 for an Initial Term of six years expiring 30 June 2009. The Initial Term ended 30 June 2011. Please provide either the Deed of variation/s or the correspondence that extended the original Initial Term for PEDL126.

Please also provide either the Deeds of Variation/s or correspondence which have extended the Second Term of PEDL126 which was for five years from 1 July 2011 expiring 30 June 2016.

The OGA "Retention Areas Agreed 1 April 2017" spreadsheet states for PEDL126:

"submit a planning application for an appraisal well by 30 December 2016, drill a horizontal well by 30 June 2020 and submit Markwells Wood Field Development Plan by 30 June 2021."

If details of this required work commitment in the paragraph above are not included in a Deed of Variation/s or correspondence in replying to my third paragraph please would you provide either a copy of the Deed of Variation/s or correspondence.

Yours faithfully,

Benjamin Dean."

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And

"Dear Oil and Gas Authority,

Please treat this email as a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, alternatively the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would be grateful if you could confirm whether this PEDL is in its second or third term. I request this as your online data site 'reports/onshore by licence.html' states:

"Second term end date N/A"

Yours faithfully,

Benjamin Dean"

We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and, where relevant, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

Please find attached the Deeds of Variation and related correspondence.

Section 40(2) and Regulation 13(1)

You will note some information including the names and contact details of some of the individuals and all signatures has been redacted. The redacted information is being withheld under Section 40(2) FOIA and 13(1) EIR. Section 40(2) provides that personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would result in a contravention of one or more of the data protection principles or would contravene Section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 ("DPA") which prohibits processing likely to cause damage or distress to a data subject. The data protection principles includes that any processing of personal data must be fair and lawful and must comply with one of the conditions either in schedule 2 or 3 of the DPA. The provisions of Section 13 EIR mirror those of Section 40(2) FOIA.

The OGA considers that disclosure of the names, signatures and contact details of the individuals would breach the principles of fairness and lawfulness. The individuals concerned do not have public facing roles and are acting in good faith in the discharge of their employment duties. In some cases those involved in the correspondence are acting as public servants. Given that the individuals are discharging their employment duties, and in some cases acting as public servants, the OGA considers that they have and are entitled to an expectation of privacy. In any event, the relevant individuals have not consented to their personal data being disclosed.

The OGA further considers that disclosure of the names of the individuals would, or would be likely to result in them suffering from undue harassment over and above

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the level normally expected to be tolerated by a public servant or those acting in an employment capacity on behalf of a private company. The OGA considers that disclosure of the names, signature and contact details of the individuals would breach the data protection principles of fairness and lawfulness. In light of this this is being withheld under Section 40(2) FOIA and 13(1) EIR.

In answer to your question about whether PEDL126 is in its second or third term, I can advise you that; in converting to 2014 Model clauses, the OGA used our discretion to allow the licence into the Production Term, which will expire on 30/06/2034 and a Retention Area Work Plan replaced the requirement for an approved Field Development Plan required at the end of the Second Term of the licence in 2016.

This concludes the OGA's consideration of your request.

Appeals procedure

If you are unhappy with the way the OGA has handled your request, you may request an internal review. A request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your request and should be addressed to:

FOI Manager
Oil and Gas Authority
21 Bloomsbury Street
London
WC1B 3HF
Email: foirequests@ogauthority.co.uk

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications with regard to this request.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of the internal review, you may contact the Information Commissioner at www.ico.org.uk or at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Officer