

Peter Cairns
request-529657-6d93eef9@whatdotheyknow.com

Date:
29th November 2018

Reference:
FOI A13

Dear Mr Peter Cairns, _____

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your Freedom of Information request in relation to your questions set out below:

Q1. What decisions has Mr. Wearmouth made or been involved with, regarding Energy (in any capacity) at ARCH since taking over at Chair in early 2017?

Q2. Has Mr. Wearmouth played any role in deciding which contracts are given to which companies at ARCH?

Right of Access

Section 1(1) of the Act provides any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to the following:

(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request (which Section 1(6) of the Act designates as the "duty to confirm or deny"), and

(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.

The right is to obtain access to the information itself and not to the document or record which contains it.

The Act creates a general right of access to information held by public authorities' subject to various exemptions.

In response to your questions please find responses below:

Q1. The only decision taken by the Arch Board, of which Richard Wearmouth is Chair, and which relates to Energy (in any capacity), was the decision to approve the leasehold sale of 2.11 acres of land to National Grid for the construction of a 400kv substation, a scheme essential to the operation of the UK-Norway North Sea Link. This decision was taken by the Arch Board in January 2018 at which Richard Wearmouth was present.

Q2. Yes, as Chair of the Arch Board, and subsequently the Advance Northumberland Board, Richard Wearmouth, together with other Board Directors has a role in deciding which contracts are given to which companies and this role is carried out in accordance with the company's Standing Financial Instructions and Financial Delegated Authority Policy. Such decisions are always based on management recommendations.

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request an internal review by writing within 2 months from the date of this response to the Director of Finance at the following: -

Advance Northumberland Limited
Wansbeck Workspace
Rotary Parkway
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 8QZ
Email: enquiries@advancenorthumberland.co.uk.

Information Commissioner

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have a right by Section 50 of the Act to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision as to whether your request has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 745

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Ashington NE63 8QZ

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely



FOI Coordinator
Advance Northumberland Limited
Wansbeck Workspace
Rotary Parkway
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 8QZ

Tel: 01670 528400

Email: foi@advancenorthumberland.co.uk

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