



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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FOI2019/01852 and FOI
2019/07694

04 June 2019

Dear Mr Richard Bales,

Thank you for your emails of 4 February 2019 and 17 April 2019, where you requested the following information:

1. *How many days (total) were claimed/ paid for the period October 1st 2018, to January 31st 2019? And how many days (total) were claimed/ paid for the period February 1st 2019 to April 16th 2019?*
2. *How many of those days were spent meeting with local communities or concerned local parties? Please provide dates, locations and (where possible subject to data protection and FOI exemptions) attendees of such meetings.*
3. *How many of those days were spent meeting with industry representatives or agencies employed by industry to promote their interests? Please provide dates, locations and (where possible subject to data protection and FOI exemptions) attendees of such meetings.*
4. *How many of those days were spent meeting with regulatory agencies? Please provide dates, locations and (where possible subject to data protection and FOI exemptions) attendees of such meetings.*
5. *How many of those days were spent meeting with Government Ministers or their nominated representatives? Please provide dates, locations and (where possible subject to data protection and FOI exemptions) attendees of such meetings.*
6. *How many of those days were spent in researching the subject of Shale Gas and Fracking to improve the Commissioner's understanding of the topic?*

We have considered your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs') as the information you have asked for falls within the definition of environmental information' in the EIRs.

You may be aware that Natascha Engel resigned from her position as Commissioner for Shale Gas on 27 April 2019.

1. *How many days (total) were claimed/ paid for the period October 1st 2018, to January 31st 2019? And how many days (total) were claimed/ paid for the period February 1st 2019 to April 16th 2019?*

We can confirm, that in the period October 1, 2018 to April 16, 2019 the Commissioner for Shale Gas claimed and was paid for a total of 156.5 days.

2. *How many of those days were spent meeting with local communities or concerned local parties? Please provide dates, locations and (where possible subject to data protection and FOI exemptions) attendees of such meetings.*

Between 1st October 2018 and 16th April 2019, there were 39 days on which the Commissioner for Shale Gas has listed engagements which took place with local communities or concerned local parties:

1.	02/10	Chesterfield	Church Groups
2.	04/10	Sheffield	Church Groups, Town Council
3.	11/10	London	Public meeting in Malton
4.	12/10	York / Sheffield	Local radio & TV
5.	13/10	Sheffield / Derbyshire	Rotary, Women's Institute
6.	14/10	Workshop	Resident meetings
7.	15/10	Derbyshire / Notts	Civic Societies
8.	16/10	Sheffield	Sheffield Star, Eckington Residents & Churches
9.	17/10	Eckington	Local Magazine Editor, Business owners
10.	31/10	York	Frack free groups, landowners
11.	06/11	London	CLA (landowner association) meeting
12.	12/11	Sheffield	Local groups
13.	13/11	Sheffield	Local groups
14.	14/11	York	Local groups
15.	15/11	Preston	Local groups, Chesterfield businesses dinner
16.	24/11	Preston	Local groups
17.	25/11	Preston	Local residents
18.	27/11	Preston	Local groups and journalists
19.	29/11	Sheffield	Local group, Derby FE college
20.	14/12	Sheffield	Lecture at Sheffield University
21.	07/01	Preston	Community Liaison Meeting, Preston New Road
22.	08/01	Bassetlaw	Resident Meeting
23.	09/01	London	Yorkshire resident group (met in London)
24.	21/01	Preston	Community Liaison Group planning meeting
25.	22/01	Preston	Fylde residents / Lancashire for Shale
26.	23/01	Preston	Local businesses, AFC Fylde Foundation
27.	04/02	London / York	Calls to campaign groups, Resident Meeting
28.	06/02	Durham	Wind farm community engagement
29.	07/02	Chesterfield	Business breakfast / question time event, residents
30.	08/02	Chesterfield	Local residents meeting
31.	15/02	London	Strike for Climate Protest youth & campaigners
32.	18/02	London	Local civic group, Hounslow
33.	08/03	Sheffield	Local groups & residents, shale gas information dinner
34.	09/03	York	Residents in Yorkshire
35.	10/03	York	Residents in Yorkshire
36.	11/03	London	Meeting national campaigners
37.	30/03	Sheffield	Meeting residents
38.	01/04	Preston	Local residents and businesses
39.	02/04	Preston	Local residents and businesses

3. *How many of those days were spent meeting with industry representatives or agencies employed by industry to promote their interests? Please provide dates, locations and (where possible subject to data protection and FOI exemptions) attendees of such meetings.*

Between 1st October 2018 and 16th April 2019, there were 45 days on which the Commissioner for Shale Gas has listed engagements which took place with *industry representatives or agencies employed by industry to promote their interests?*

1.	01/10	Birmingham / Sheffield	Meeting Industry
2.	03/10	Sheffiled	Evening driving to sites with industry
3.	09/10	London	Industry meeting incl. US geologists
4.	10/10	London	Industry meeting
5.	11/10	London / York	Industry conference call
6.	22/10	London	Industry meeting
7.	24/10	London	UKOOG meeting
8.	25/10	London	Offshore industry meeting
9.	29/10	London	Industry meeting
10.	30/10	London / York	Industry meeting
11.	31/10	York	Industry meeting
12.	06/11	London	Industry meeting
13.	08/11	London	Industry meeting
14.	20/11	London	Industry meeting
15.	21/11	London	Energy Industry meeting
16.	26/11	Preston	Industry meeting
17.	03/12	London	Industry meeting
18.	04/12	London	Trade Unions
19.	06/12	London	Industry meeting
20.	17/12	London	Industry meeting
21.	01/03	London	Industry meeting
22.	04/01	London	Women in energy industry networking
23.	07/01	Manchester / Preston	Industry meeting
24.	10/01	London	Industry phone conference
25.	14/01	London	Meeting offshore fracking industry
26.	15/01	London	Industry meeting
27.	17/01	London	Industry meeting
28.	18/01	London	Industry catch up
29.	24/01	London	Energy industry / Energy trade association meetings
30.	25/01	London	Energy Industry meeting
31.	31/01	London	Industry meeting
32.	02/02	London	industry phone calls
33.	04/02	London	Phone calls with industry
34.	12/02	London	Industry meeting
35.	20/02	Springs Road	Industry site visit
36.	26/02	London	Gas security meeting, academics and industry
37.	27/02	London	Industry meeting
38.	28/02	London	Industry meeting
39.	04/03	London	Industry meeting
40.	06/03	London	Industry meeting
41.	07/03	London	UKOOG meeting
42.	12/03	London	Industry meeting
43.	13/03	London	Gas industry meeting
44.	18/03	Grangemouth	Site visit
45.	25/03	London	Industry meeting

4. *How many of those days were spent meeting with regulatory agencies? Please provide dates, locations and (where possible subject to data protection and FOI exemptions) attendees of such meetings.*

Between 1st October 2018 and 16th April 2019, there were 19 days on which the Commissioner for Shale Gas has listed engagements which took place meeting regulatory agencies. As well as the Oil & Gas Authority, Environment Agency and Health & Safety Executive, we have included the Royal Society and British Geological Survey in this section as they have produced previous reports or supplied data to inform the current regulatory regime for shale gas.

1.	05/10	London	Regulator meeting
2.	09/10	London	Regulator meeting
3.	10/10	London	Regulator meeting
4.	19/10	London	BGS (British Geological Survey)
5.	23/10	London	EA (Environment Agency) phone conference
6.	29/10	London	Regulator, Royal Society
7.	30/10	London / York	Regulator meeting
8.	05/11	London	EA, BGS
9.	06/11	London	OGA (Oil & Gas Authority)
10.	07/11	Cardiff	Royal Society report meeting
11.	19/11	London	Royal Society
12.	21/11	London	BGS conference
13.	30/11	London	Royal Society steering group report meeting
14.	05/12	London	OGA
15.	19/12	London	Meeting Royal Society geologists
16.	08/01	Nottingham	Information day at BGS
17.	10/01	London	Shale Environmental Regulatory Group working group
18.	28/01	London	Royal Society
19.	19/02	London	EA (Jo Nettleton) meeting

5. *How many of those days were spent meeting with Government Ministers or their nominated representatives? Please provide dates, locations and (where possible subject to data protection and FOI exemptions) attendees of such meetings.*

Between 1st October 2018 and 16th April 2019, there were 41 days on which the Commissioner for Shale Gas has listed engagements which took place *with Government Ministers or their nominated representatives?* We have included within this request any meetings with MPs, Council members, Government officials or departments.

1.	01/10	Birmingham / Sheffield	Meeting Conservative MPs, Party Conference
2.	02/10	Chesterfield	Meeting Labour MPs
3.	03/10	Sheffield	Sheffield Chambers and City Council
4.	04/10	Sheffield	Town Council
5.	08/10	London	BEIS, MPs
6.	10/10	London	MPs
7.	11/10	London	BEIS, MPs
8.	13/10	Sheffield / Derbyshire	Local MPs and Councillors
9.	14/10	Notts	Local MP and Councillors
10.	22/10	London	BEIS
11.	23/10	London	Minister Meeting
12.	24/10	London	MPs
13.	25/10	London	BEIS admin meeting
14.	29/10	London	Minister Meeting
15.	30/10	London	BEIS
16.	05/11	London	BEIS
17.	06/11	London	BEIS
18.	08/11	London	BEIS
19.	19/11	London	BEIS, MPs
20.	20/11	London	MPs
21.	27/11	Preston	Councillors
22.	28/11	Sheffield	Councillors
23.	05/12	London	MPs, DfT
24.	06/12	London	Parliament Clerks, MPs
25.	07/12	London	MPs
26.	18/12	London	BEIS
27.	19/12	London	Minister Meeting
28.	02/01	London	BEIS
29.	15/01	London	MHCLG meeting
30.	21/01	Preston	Meeting with Police
31.	22/01	Preston	Meeting Fylde independent Councillors

32.	28/01	London	BEIS, Minister Meeting
33.	12/02	London	MPs
34.	13/02	London	Phone calls and government meetings
35.	14/02	London	Phone calls and government meetings
36.	19/02	London	Government meetings, Parliament meetings
37.	01/03	London	BEIS
38.	05/03	London	MPs
39.	11/03	London	BEIS
40.	12/03	London	BEIS
41.	27/03	London	MPs

6. How many of those days were spent in researching the subject of Shale Gas and Fracking to improve the Commissioner's understanding of the topic?

Between 1st October 2018 and 16th April 2019, there were 32 days on which the Commissioner for Shale Gas has listed engagements which were completed to help research relevant subject matter. We have included within this meetings related to technical processes, community engagement and associated industries i.e. water industry.

1.	01/10	Birmingham	Sirius re. public engagement
2.	05/10	London	Dagenham car plant regeneration project, Community engagement, reading on seismicity and previous reports
3.	09/10	London	US geologists on seismicity
4.	19/10	London	Academics and experts (incl. BGS)
5.	24/10	London	Water industry
6.	25/10	London	Academics phone calls
7.	26/10	Cheshire	Visit Academic
8.	29/10	London	Academics phone calls
9.	20/11	London	Water industry
10.	26/11	London	US Embassy meeting
11.	28/11	Sheffield	Leeds water treatment
12.	04/12	London	Water industry meeting
13.	07/12	London	Westminster Energy Forum
14.	04/01	London	Public engagement meetings/roundtable with house builders
15.	08/01	Nottingham	Information day at BGS
16.	10/01	London	Water roundtable phone calls
17.	14/01	London	Meeting geologists
18.	18/01	London	Heathrow community engagement
19.	31/01	London	Conference on gas security
20.	01/02	London	Offshore industry to further understanding of Decommissioning regime and technology
21.	05/02	Darlington	Sirius Minerals site re. community engagement
22.	06/02	Durham	Banks coal mining re. community engagement
23.	12/02	London	Meetings energy academics
24.	25/02	Stoke on Trent	British Ceramics Confederation
25.	26/02	London	Gas security meeting, academics
26.	07/03	London	Heathrow community research prsentation
27.	19/03	London	Sirius re. public engagement
28.	29/03	Sheffield	Steel industry meeting
29.	04/04	London	Westminster Energy Forum
30.	05/04	London	Renewable energy and gas meeting
31.	10/04	Cornwall	Geothermal project
32.	11/04	Swansea	Swansea University Energy Safety Research Institute

The information we hold, and which has been shared with you, does not contain an itemised breakdown, on an hour-by-hour basis. As demonstrated, the Commissioner often interacted

with a broad range of stakeholders and interested parties in one day, and she travelled extensively in her time in office to areas affected by shale gas developments.

The Commissioner undertook a range of activities during her time in the role, in line with her responsibilities to:

- listen to the concerns of local residents in areas with planning applications for shale gas (and exploratory drilling)
- work with local residents, local elected representatives and Members of Parliament (MPs) to ensure that legitimate concerns are addressed by the industry, regulators and government
- help to improve understanding of shale gas with impartial and fact-based information
- report back to government on changes that could be made to address the concerns of local residents
- work closely with the Shale Environmental Regulator team as well as the new Planning Brokerage Service to ensure accurate and timely information is available to residents

Where appropriate, information has been withheld in line with EIR regulation 13: Personal Information. Regulation 13(1) of the EIRs provides an absolute exemption for personal data which then falls to be dealt with under the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed in accordance with the data protection principles. In particular, the first data protection principle requires that disclosure must be lawful, fair and transparent and must comply with one of the conditions at Article 6(1) the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We do not think that it is lawful, fair and transparent to release the names and contact details of third parties and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.

Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the Information Rights & Records Unit:

Information Rights & Records Unit
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
Email: FOI.Requests@beis.gov.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,

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

