



Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Analysis Directorate
Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Ms Maureen Mills
request-526318-00a0e09d@whatdotheyknow.com

T +44 (0)20 7215 5000 - Public enquiries
+44 (0)20 7215 6740 - Textphone (for
those with hearing impairment)
E foi.requests@beis.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/beis

FOI2018/23862

03 January 2019

Dear Ms Mills,

Thank you for your email on 05 November 2018 where you requested the following information:

“My inquiry relates to the relationship between the document “THE BEIS ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE PUBLIC ATTITUDES TRACKER REVIEW Government response” to the consultation the BEIS issued dated 16th August 2018:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/734416/beis-public-attitudes-tracker-review-government-response.pdf

and the survey questions that were not asked in Wave 26 between “11 July to 17 July 2018”.

The correspondence I request is that which referred to and authorised removing the questions asked in July 2018 relating to shale gas when the “Government response” was not issued by BEIS until 16th August 2018, whether it was between ministers/BEIS or between civil servants under the guise of “Government”.

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.

I can confirm that the Department holds information relating to your request. The relevant correspondence is attached to this letter. Some information constitutes personal data and has been withheld. 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 of junior members of staff 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 40 working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to the Information Rights Unit at:

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
E-mail: 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,

Analysis Directorate