

**Department of Energy
& Climate Change**
3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2HD
www.decc.gov.uk

26th March 2010

Dear Ms Evans,

Freedom of information request – Case No. 10/0426

Thank you for your request dated 3rd March as below:

I would like to request the amount of departmental spending on hydroelectric power research, construction, maintenance and deconstruction for UK. I would like the spending broken down by:

1. Category of spending in the supplementary budgetary report (http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/sbi66_decc.pdf). Examples of categories that seem most likely are:
 - Supporting affordable, secure and sustainable energy
 - Bringing about a low-carbon UK

AND

2. Time: I would like this information broken down annually from 2003 up to the time this request is answered. The years should be consistent with those in the supplementary budgetary report (http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/sbi66_decc.pdf)

Scope and background

Within this context, the more generally accepted definition of hydropower is applied i.e.; energy derived from rivers or man-made installations such as dams

or weirs. Hydropower technology is considered a mature technology and as such is not a priority for research and development funding.

Neither DECC, BIS nor its predecessors hold information on investment in hydropower as per your request, i.e. broken down under headings as in the Supplementary Budget report attached with your request or broken down annually, with the exception of ClearSkies funding to Households. However, it is clear that the majority of the identified spending on hydropower will fall under the headings “supporting affordable, secure and sustainable energy” and “bringing about a low-carbon UK”. The other headings in the report are not relevant to your request.

Information Gathering

Research

DECC

In 2009/10, DECC paid £15,000 as its 50% contribution to the part funding of a study into the remaining hydropower resource potential for future development in England and Wales. The Welsh Assembly Government contributed the other 50%, and the study was sponsored by the British Hydropower Association.

There was no funding for hydropower research through the Research Councils over the period requested.

Construction

DTI

Between January 2003 and March 2007, £13.25M was allocated under the ClearSkies programme to support the installation of various renewable energy technologies, including the installation of hydropower systems. ClearSkies was open to households as well as community groups.

Grants awarded per group were:

Households - £62,210.00, awarded annually to hydropower projects as follows;

Financial Year	Amount (£)
03/04	5,000.00
04/05	5,000.00
05/06	24,700.00
06/07	27,510.00
	62,210.00

Community Groups - £361,914.56 (This represents the total amount awarded for 10 hydropower projects proposed by various groups).

An annual breakdown of this sum is not available.

BERR/DECC

Following on from ClearSkies, the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) was launched in 2006 to provide grant funding for households, not for profit organisations and charitable institutions to install Microgeneration projects, including small scale hydro. The scheme closed for electricity generating technologies on 3rd February 2010.

Grant awarded to hydropower project:

Financial year: 2009/10 - £20,000 – Household (Phase 2).

More information on the LCBP can be found at:

Phase 1: <http://www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/>

Phase 2: <http://www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk/>

Maintenance/Deconstruction

DECC and its predecessors have not spent any money on Maintenance or Deconstruction of hydro schemes during this period.

Appeal 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 letter and should be addressed to the Department.

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

I hope this helps.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Dennis".

Karen Dennis