



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

**Department of Energy & Climate Change**

3 Whitehall Place  
Second Floor  
London SW1A 2AW

02 December 2015

Martin Thomas  
request-300700-dc1bd315@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Thomas,

Thank you for your email of 4 November 2015 where you requested the following information:

*Your department provided £7 million to Bristol City Council to support their year as European Green Capital 2015. There have been questions and issues resulting from the use of this sum, and a further £1 million of Council funds, by a private company set up to administer them - Bristol 2015 Ltd. Concern has been expressed that funds have been unfairly allocated to organisations represented on the board of directors, and that the City's elected councillors are being prevented from properly scrutinising the use of the funds.*

*Under the Freedom of Information Act please could you provide me with the following information:*

- The specific terms and conditions on which the £7 million was given to Bristol City Council and how it was to be used.*
- Any assessment of the risk in transferring this sum of money to Bristol City Council.*
- Details of what criteria were used to identify the value for money of the grant was projected to give the public purse.*
- What criteria, if any, will be used to measure the success of the event, and who will be making that assessment - your department, Bristol City Council, or Bristol 2015 Ltd.*
- Details of any agreement between your department with Bristol City Council to transfer the £7 million to an uncountable Limited Company.*
- Any correspondence exchanged between your department and Bristol City Council relating to the transfer of £7 million from them to Bristol 2015 Ltd.*

Your request is being considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs') on the basis that the information you have asked for falls within the definition of 'environmental information' in the EIRs.

We are writing to tell you that the time limit for responding to your request for information needs to be extended.

Under the EIRs, we are required to respond to requests as soon as possible, and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving a request. However, by regulation 7 the period of 20 working days may be extended up to a total of 40 working days if we reasonably believe that the complexity and volume of the information requested means that it is impractical to comply with a request within the earlier period or to make a decision to refuse to do so.

In respect of your request, we believe that regulation 7 applies. Therefore, although we shall not be able to respond fully to your request within the 20 working day period, we shall do so as soon as possible within the extended period. We hope to provide you with a response by 30 December 2015.

### **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, Innovation & Skills  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET  
E-mail: [foi.requests@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foi.requests@bis.gsi.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 of Energy and Climate Change  
Public Sector and Community Energy Team