



Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Energy Development & Resilience
Department for Business, Energy &
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Mr Richard Bales
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FOI2019/02110

06 March 2019

Dear Mr Bales,

Thank you for your email of 6 February where you requested the following information:

1. Were BEIS, or the Shale Gas Commissioner, or the responsible Government Ministers given prior notice by INEOS (or any third party on their behalf) that this statement was to be issued? Please give details and copies of any relevant correspondence, details and minutes of relevant meetings that took place between the parties, and any records of any other related discussions that were held in advance of the press release.

2. What approaches had INEOS (or any third party on their behalf) previously made to BEIS, the Shale Gas Commissioner, or the responsible Government Ministers to lobby for changes to the Traffic Light System? Please give relevant details of all such occasions.

3. Have any of the recognised Regulatory Agencies passed details to BEIS of approaches received from INEOS (or any third party on their behalf) in order to argue for changes to the Traffic Light System? Please supply details and copies of any such communications.

4. In the last three months, what statements or other communications has BEIS given to INEOS (or any third party on their behalf), either before or after the press statement on February 4th, relating either to the Traffic light System or more generally to the future development of the Shale Gas Industry in the UK?

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 03 April 2019.

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,

Energy Development & Resilience