

**Department of Energy & Climate Change**

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David Holland  
Via REQUEST-63416-23EB36EE@WHATDOTHEYKNOW.COM

Our ref: **11/0313**  
Your ref: **63416 3EB36EE**

25 March 2011

Dear Mr Holland

**RE: Your information Request Ref 11/0313**

Thank you for your e-mail of 25 February 2011.

In your email, you make five requests for recorded information that may be held by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

*Please supply:*

*[1] Any official, that is Panel approved, documented "practice" or "principle" and the number of the IPCC session report in which the agreement to it by Panel members is recorded, that authorises the "confidentially" Guidance Note issued by WGI and referred to above.*

*[2] Any document approved by the Panel that defines the words "openness and transparency" as used in the "Principles Governing IPCC Work".*

*[3] Any judicial rulings upon which the Minister intends to rely to support the WGI ruling on confidentiality.*

*[4] Any official, that is Panel approved, IPCC document that specifies "the degree of privacy afforded to review editors"*

*[5] Any IPCC or DECC official document other than that from WGI cited above that outlines and justifies the doctrine of "private thinking space" in relation to IPCC assessments in contravention of the fundamental IPCC principle of openness and transparency.*

We have considered these requests in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) as the information you have sought disclosure of is likely in our view to fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in the EIRs.

The Department does not hold any recorded information which falls within your requests numbered [1], [2], [4] or [5].

We are also unfortunately unable to release any information in relation to your request numbered [3]: '*Any judicial rulings upon which the Minister intends to rely to support the WGI ruling on confidentiality.*' This request relates to a hypothetical future situation. It is not possible for us to anticipate the uses to which information currently held by the Department will be applied in the circumstances you describe. As such, I regret that we are unable to assess whether we hold any information you have requested. Regulation 12(4)(c) EIRs provides that a public authority is not required to provide information where the request for information is formulated in too general a manner and the public authority has complied with regulation 9. In this case, we consider that part 3 of your request is formulated in too general a manner for us to be able to comply with it.

You may wish to clarify this part of your request for instance by identifying which particular rulings or types of ruling you are seeking. More details on the scope of the Regulations can be found at the website of the Information Commissioner's Office: [http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/environmental\\_info\\_reg/introductory/eir\\_what\\_is\\_environmental\\_information.pdf](http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/environmental_info_reg/introductory/eir_what_is_environmental_information.pdf)

Please remember to quote the reference number 11/0313 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

**DECC Climate, Energy, Science and Analysis**

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