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Our ref: Fol/18/00305
22 February 2018

Mr Collins

Thank you for your request dated 26 January under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) for:

(a) A copy of any pre-meeting briefing; confirmation of all people in attendance at all meetings; agendas for all meetings; notes or minutes taken and/or action points decided during all meetings; and any post meeting briefings in relation to all meetings between any Scottish Government Minister(s) and any representative(s) from Oil and Gas UK during the period between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017.

(b) Email correspondence between the Scottish Government and Oil and Gas UK during the period between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2017.

Response to your request.

I enclose a copy of some of the information you requested in **Annex B**.

Regarding part (a) of your request there are two meetings which fall within the scope of the request, which took place on 3 March 2017 and 5 September 2017.

Some of the information you have requested is available from the Scottish Government website <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/foi-17-01422/>. Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to give you information which is already reasonably accessible to you. If, however, you do not have internet access to obtain this information from the website(s) listed, then please contact me again and I will send you a paper copy.

You also asked for any post meeting briefings in relation to all meetings between any Scottish Government Minister(s) and any representative(s) from Oil and Gas UK during the period between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017. Under the terms of Section 17(1) of FOISA (information not held), the Scottish Government is not required to provide

information which it does not have. While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the Scottish Government does not have some of the information you have requested. This information is not routinely held if there are no specific actions as a result of the meetings.

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance we are unable to provide some of the information you have requested because exemptions under sections 38(1)(b) of FOISA (personal information) applies to a small amount the information and under section 27(1) of FOISA applies to some of the information requested.

Part (b) of your request referred to correspondence between the Scottish Government and Oil and Gas UK during the period between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2017. While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the costs of locating, retrieving and providing the information requested to respond to part (b) of your request would exceed the upper cost limit of £600. There has been significant engagement across Scottish Government with the sector, Marine Scotland Science have a significant engagement with the sector relating to their involvement in the routine regulation of offshore oil and gas activities in the Scottish sector of the North Sea. As such the volume of emails relating to email correspondence is considerable and the time required to comply with your request will exceed the cost limit.

Under section 12 of FOISA public authorities are not required to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the upper cost limit, which is currently set at £600 by Regulations made under section 12.

You may, however, wish to consider reducing the scope of your request in order that the costs can be brought below £600. In order to reduce the cost of your request you may wish to consider being more specific. Is there a particular question that you require to be addressed? Or a particular interest in specific Scottish Government directorate's engagement with the oil and gas sector?

You may also find it helpful to look at the Scottish Information Commissioner's 'Tips for requesting information under FOI and the EIRs' on his website at:
<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Tipsforrequesters.aspx>.

The reasons why these exemptions apply are explained in the **Annex A** to this letter.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to Chris Stark, Director of Energy and Climate Change, Atlantic Quay, 55 Robertson St, Glasgow, G2 8JD or by email to Chris.Stark@gov.scot. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at:
<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Unhappywiththeresponse/AppealingtoCommissioner.aspx>

Yours sincerely

Linsey Wilson
Scottish Government

REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION

An exemption under section 38(1)(b) of FOISA (personal information) applies to a small amount of the information requested because it is personal data of a third party, ie this relates to the names and contact numbers of junior Scottish Government officials, and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998. This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.

INFORMATION IN SCOPE (PART A)

MEETING WITH OIL AND GAS UK

Date and Time of Engagement	Tuesday 5 September 2017 08:30 – 09:30
Where	OGUK Exhibition Stand 2A109 Hall 2
Key Message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scottish Government is committed to a sustainable future for the oil and gas sector in Scotland and to working in partnership to secure the total value added for the economy, the industry and society.
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deirdre Michie, Chief Executive Mike Tholen, Economics Director Jenny Stanning, External Affairs Manager
What	An opportunity to understand the headline messages from Oil and Gas UK's latest Economic Report.
Why	Oil and Gas UK will publish their 2017 Economic Report on Wednesday 6 September.
When	08:30 – 08:30, Tuesday 5 September 2017
Supporting Official	[REDACT], Offshore Oil and Gas, [REDACT] [REDACT], Head of Offshore Oil and Gas, [REDACT]
Media Handling	N/A
Dress code	Business Attire
Greeting Party and specific meeting point	Officials will meet the Minister outside the <u>Main Registration & Entrance</u>, off Exploration Drive. AECC (Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre) Exhibition Avenue Bridge of Don Aberdeen AB23 8BL
Specific entrance car/parking arrangements	N/A
Briefing Contents	Annex A – Summary Annex B – Company Background, Biographies

ANNEX A - SUMMARY

Agenda

- The main focus of the meeting will be the headline messages from the 2017 Economic Report. However, if there is time, **OGUK have suggested the following discussion topics:**
 - Brexit
 - Budget
 - Scottish Energy Strategy and climate change bill
 - Business rates

Brexit

- Since the vote to leave the EU, the approach of the UKG to withdrawal has been a rejection of the principle of devolution, and the sharing of decision making across these islands, clearly chosen by the people of Scotland and Wales.
- The UKG's EU (Withdrawal) Bill is an unashamed move to centralise decision making power in Westminster, cutting directly across current devolved powers and responsibilities.
- **The UKG acknowledges the EU Withdrawal Bill requires Scottish Parliament consent.** The Scotland Act makes clear that the UK Parliament will not normally legislate on devolved matters or legislate to change the powers of the Scottish Parliament or ministers without the consent of Holyrood.
- The Bill empowers UK ministers to make changes in devolved policy areas without the involvement of either the Scottish Government or the Scottish Parliament.
- For that **reason we will not recommend that the Scottish Parliament gives its consent.** To override a vote of the Scottish Parliament and impose the EU Withdrawal Bill on Scotland would be an extraordinary and unprecedented step to take.

Budget: The key economic and fiscal levers remain with the UK Government, and further support is required:

- The Chancellor must now deliver practical measures to aid the transfer of late life assets through Transferable Tax Histories – this is long overdue and part of the measures which the Scottish Government has called on for some time.
- The UKG must provide support for exploration to boost activity and provide immediate support to the hard hit supply chain.
- The UKG should work swiftly with the sector to deliver a Sector Deal which will allow the industry to meet its 2035 Vision of maximising economic recovery and doubling the UK's market share of the global supply chain industry.
- The UKG must also take action to deliver on the Chancellor's commitment in March 2016 to consider loan guarantees to ensure that critical assets and infrastructure remains operational.

Scottish Energy Strategy and Climate Change Bill

- **Recognise that Deirdre Michie attended the recent SEAB meeting in June and welcome OGUK's input into the discussion,** particularly the points in OGUK's submission recognizing the important role for oil and gas in the short, medium and long term.
- Following the consultation closure, the results will be fully analysed and considered in the development of the final Energy Strategy – to be published before the end of 2017.
- **The public consultation on our Climate Change Bill proposals remains open till 22 September.** We look forward to receiving views from across Scotland and I would not want to pre-empt that process.

Business Rates

- Barclay Review published 22 August - welcome the report on the review of non-domestic rates led by Ken Barclay.

- I am grateful to Ken Barclay and the other group members (Nora Senior CBE, Isobel d’Inverno, Professor Russell Griggs OBE and David Henderson), and to all who provided evidence.
- We have outlined some early commitments in the Programme for Government, and will update Parliament shortly with our full response.

ANNEX B – Company Background, Biographies

Oil and Gas UK are the industry tradebody for the offshore oil and gas sector.



Deirdre Michie, Chief Executive

Deirdre was appointed CEO of Oil and Gas UK in May 2015 and is a member of MER, the UK Government and industry forum, and is also a member of the Scottish Government's Energy Advisory Board and the UK Treasury's Oil Industry Fiscal Forum. She is Chair of Common Data Access Limited, a director of OPITO Strategic Ltd, a Board Member of Opportunity North East and of the SCDI (Scottish Council for Development & Industry). Deirdre is also a member of the UK government's Women's Business Council which is focused on increasing women's contribution to economic growth.

A former vice-president and council member of Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce, Deirdre takes an active role in local business and in the community.

Before taking on the role of CEO of Oil & Gas UK, she was Chair of the Board of Aberdeen Science Centre, a Board member of North East of Scotland College, and of Aberdeen Skills and Enterprise Training.



Mike Tholen, Economics Director

Mike seeks to foster a business environment which sustains the competitiveness of this mature oil and gas province. Particular responsibilities within the oil and gas industry trade body include fiscal and energy policy and regulatory affairs. He is actively engaged with HM Treasury and DECC on the future of the UK oil and gas fiscal and regulatory regime which will be critical to deliver the full potential of the basin.