



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Oil and Gas Exploration and Production
Department for Business, Energy &
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FOI2018/15262

20 July 2018

Dear Mr Bales,

Thank you for your email of 27 June where you requested the following information:

Dear Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy,

The Royal Society and the Royal Academy of Engineering are now reviewing the latest scientific research on shale gas extraction since the publication of their 2012 review, (which was commissioned by the Government and which forms part of the current Government justification for support of Shale Gas Exploration in the UK.) They expect to comment before the end of 2018.

I would be grateful if you would confirm:-

1. Has the Government requested, approved or otherwise initiated this new review?
2. To what extent has the timing, scope, objectives and methodology of the new review been discussed with, influenced by, modified or authorised by Government?
3. Has the Government received, or is it aware of, representations from other parties in relation to this new review, either to request or suggest it, or to contribute to the definition of its terms of reference?

Please supply copies of all correspondence, meeting minutes and relevant documentary evidence to support the responses to the above.

The above information is requested in order that I and other interested members of the public may be able to form a view as to the independence of the review and its relevance to Government policy formulation.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Bales

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require

- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

The Royal Society and the Royal Academy of Engineers' review of the latest scientific research on shale gas extraction since the publication of their 2012 review is being undertaken independently of Government. The Government has not requested nor initiated this review. We have not discussed the timing, scope, objectives and methodology of the review with either the Royal Society or the Royal Academy of Engineering, and we have not received representations from other parties in relation to this new review.

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 Unit:

Information Rights 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,

BEIS