



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW

Mr Thomas Pritchard

E: foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/decc

Our Ref.: 14/0536

17 April 2014

Dear Mr Pritchard,

RE: Government investigation of the Severn Barrage

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 27th March as set out below.

"Since the 1920s, when the issue of the Severn barrage first fell under Government investigation, could you please provide a list of both the number of inquiries undertaken along with how long they took to deliberate and the costs incurred?"

It would also be appreciated if you could advise on where to obtain copies of reports from these inquiries, particularly the earlier ones."

We have considered your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) as the information you sought disclosure of, does in our view, fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in EIRs.

We have now completed searching for the information you requested, and can reply as follows.

Some of the information requested is not held by the Department as it is pertaining to records beyond the last 30 years. In accordance with the Public Records Act (1958)¹ which was amended in 2010, Government records beyond 30 years are made available at the National Archives and other places of deposit for full access to the public. You may find it helpful to first review the report by the Royal Academy of Engineering which gives some historical

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/6-7/51>

information on the Severn studies. The report can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.raeng.org.uk/news/publications/list/default.htm?Text=+severn&Publication=&Search=Yes>.

In relation to our electronic records, information on the Seven Barrage over the last 30 years, is in the public domain and is available and accessible to you. This information, together with the relevant links, is presented in the table below.

Government investigation into a Severn Barrage

Study-Year	Duration for decision	Cost (m)	Output and Link to public source
Sustainable Development Commission - 2006/7	9 months	£0.4	Report – Turning the Tide, Tidal power in the UK and associated documents. Available at: http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=607 .
DECC-Cross Government Study - 2008/10	2 years	£6	Severn Tidal Power Feasibility report and associated documents. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/severn-tidal-power-feasibility-study-conclusions .

In relation to our paper records, the Department is aware of information in existence which would fall within the scope of your request created within the last 30 years. These documents are:

1. Department of Energy, Energy Paper 54: Energy technologies for the United Kingdom: 1986 appraisal of research, development and demonstration - 1986
2. Department of Energy, Energy Paper 57: The Severn Barrage Project: general report - 1989

These documents are stored in off-site archives but can be obtained from the National Archives. The Department however no longer holds information on the costs associated with the production of these documents.

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 addressed 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

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,

Marine: Wave and Tidal Policy Officer
Office for Renewable Energy Deployment
Industry & Investment Team