

**Department of Energy & Climate Change**

3 Whitehall Place,  
London SW1A 2AW  
T: +44 (0)20 060 4000  
[www.gov.uk/decc](http://www.gov.uk/decc)

Mr. Jack Alexander

Email: [@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our ref: FOI2015/24326

24 November 2015

Dear Mr Alexander

Thank you for your email 30 October revising your earlier request (FOI2015/21515) to make the following request:

“I would like any correspondence or meetings involving any of the below members of the Department for Energy and Climate Change and any external bodies

Amber Rudd MP  
Andrea Leadsom MP  
Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

on the issue of deciding to end of Onshore wind subsidies (part of the Energy Bill), from 22/06/2015 to present

Please ensure that your search for correspondence includes:

Email correspondence (including attachments) Memos Reports Briefing documents or the equivalent Letters Telephone records and any notes made during and after telephone calls Correspondence includes any other type of correspondence frequently used by the department, including text messages and private emails.”

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

The Department wishes to be as open as possible in answering requests, and to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Unfortunately although you have attempted to narrow the scope from your previous enquiry, from our preliminary assessment, this request would still require a substantial volume of work to determine whether the Department holds the information you have requested and to

locate, retrieve and extract the information. For example there are at least 650 items of correspondence received by our correspondence unit that would need to be checked to determine if they contain any information related to your request.

In addition your wide definition of correspondence includes emails sent directly to Ministers' Offices which would require a search of email accounts of all three Ministers, as well as supporting officials. So, after careful examination of your request under the EIRs, we have determined that Regulation 12(4)(b) would apply. Regulation 12(4)(b) states that a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that the request for information is manifestly unreasonable. In applying the exception, we have considered the public interest test in respect of your request. We have applied a presumption in favour of disclosure as required by Regulation 12(2). In this respect we recognise that there may be public interest in the information you have requested as it could enhance public understanding of the Government's engagement with external organisations and facilitate the accountability and transparency of Government decisions.

However, your revised request is still broad and voluminous. Gathering the information you request would be likely to involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the teams concerned and the Department's other work. Therefore, we will not process your request as currently drafted at this stage.

The Government was elected with a clear manifesto commitment to end new subsidies for onshore wind. With that in mind, you may therefore wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope and being more specific concerning the precise nature of the information you wish to obtain. You could, for example, provide a list of the companies or trade associations which you would like the correspondence to/from and limit your request to only the correspondence received by the correspondence unit or to only one of the Ministers. In addition, you could reduce the time period you wish to obtain the information for.

### **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 sent 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](mailto: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