

## ANNEX

### REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION

#### An exception applies (11 – personal data)

An exception under regulation 11 of the EIRs applies to some of the information that you have requested. This is because you have requested information that is personal data. In this case, this exception is not subject to a 'public interest test'.

#### An exception applies [10(4)(e) – internal communications]

An exception under regulation 10(4)(e) of the EIRs applies to some of the information you have requested. This is because you have requested information that is internal communications. This is a class-based exception which means there is no requirement to consider whether disclosure of the communication would cause harm before applying the exception.

This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception.

We recognise that there is some public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in allowing Ministers space within which policy issues can be explored. This space allows Ministers and officials to consider all possible policy permutations, fully understand their possible implications and debate these rigorously, in order to make robust decisions and arrive at the most credible option. Disclosing internal communications would undermine the effectiveness of this aspect of government business and is therefore not in the wider public interest.

Yours sincerely

Dan Young  
**OESC : Onshore Electricity Policy**

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