

15 August 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS (EIR) REQUEST

Thank you for your requests, received on 16 and 18 July 2019.

Specifically you requested:

16 July 2019

I would like to understand the values for the capital and operating costs and also the lifetimes in each component line of the database spreadsheet. Please could you send the further spreadsheets and/or papers to allow me to do this.

18 July 2019

Just to clarify a little. It occurs to me that the Net Zero Dataset you sent in your response to my earlier FOI may have been an extract from a larger spreadsheet. If so, then I would like the whole of the spreadsheet, unaltered from its original state.

Our response:

As your requests relate to environmental information, we have considered them under the Environmental Information Regulations.

You can find much of the information you requested in our published reports. For example, the sources for our power sector cost assumptions are listed in Chapter 2 (Table 2.2, page 30) of our Net Zero technical report; sources for our building cost assumptions are listed in Chapter 3 (Table B3.5, page 86; Table 3.1, page 95) of the same report.

In response to your specific request of 18 July – the Net Zero costs dataset is not an extract from a larger spreadsheet. It was compiled from a large number of models and spreadsheets covering the various sectors of the economy. For each sector, we consider the abatement measures for that sector/sub-sector (equivalent to those included in the Net Zero costs dataset) and build a summary of total emissions abatement and total costs. We then gather together the economy-wide emissions abatement and costs. We recently collated data in the Net Zero costs dataset to make it easier to visualise and understand final cost calculations.

However, the data does not contain the information requested in your communication of 16 July (capital costs, operating costs and lifetimes of each component line in the Net Zero

costs dataset). This information is obtained from multiple models. For example – 12 different spreadsheets feed into our assessment of the surface transport sector (1 for cars, vans and motorcycles which in turn has 5 models feed into it; 1 for HGVs which in turn has 3 models feed into it; 1 for buses and coaches; 1 for rail; 1 for urea and 1 for aircraft support vehicles). Similarly, multiple different information sources feed into each of the other sectors.

As such, we estimate that more than 10 working days of CCC staff time would be required to extract and compile the information requested. We have therefore made the decision to refuse your request under Regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations.

As with our all reports, we have sought to ensure as much transparency as possible and have already published a significant amount of the underlying data used to form our advice in the Net Zero report. It is also important to note that the underlying data and calculations were reviewed and subjected to rigorous quality assurance processes with input from a wide range of external organisations and individuals.

In reaching this decision we have considered:

- The significant resource costs of complying with the request. As set out above, extracting this information would impose a significant burden on staff time across different teams. The CCC is a small organisation of around 30 staff, the request would prevent the delivery of our core service.
- The public interest test. We have deemed that maintaining the exception to respond outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The public interest in maintaining this exception lies in protecting public authorities from exposure to disproportionate burden in handling the request. While we deemed that providing the information you requested as part of your previous set of requests was in the public interest, given the importance of the issue and the potential to inform public debate, we consider that the resource burden resulting from responding to this additional request outweighs the public interest in obtaining the information.

If you are able to narrow down your request (e.g. by asking for data for particular rows in the dataset) we will more easily be able to assist you. However, to avoid a disproportionate burden to our organisation we will consider aggregating the costs of any related requests we receive from you within a reasonable time period.

This concludes our response to your request.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

In keeping with our transparency policy, the information released to you will be published on www.theccc.org.uk. Please note that this publication will not include your personal data.