

Professor Steve Tombs
John Moores University
68 Hope St
Liverpool
L1 9HW

Your Reference:

Our Ref: Fol 2062

Date: 27 July 2011

Dear Professor Tombs,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 15 July. You asked:

1. The names of representatives and of the key health and safety stakeholding organisations with whom the Rt Hon Chris Grayling has met since the launch of the government's 'Good health and safety, Good for everyone' strategy on 21 March 2011
2. The dates of each of those meetings
3. The duration of each of those meetings
4. Any written records of each of those meetings.

The table at Annex A provides the answers to points 1 to 3 of your request.

The Department has decided not to disclose the information at point 4 of your request as it falls under the exemption in section 35(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act. This exemption covers internal Departmental policy development and debate. In applying this exemption the Department has balanced the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information.

Factors in favour of a decision to disclose are that greater transparency makes government more accountable to the electorate and increases trust. As knowledge of the way government works increases, the public contribution to the policy making process could become more effective and broadly-based.

Factors in favour of withholding this information include the need for good government which depends on good decision making based on the best advice available and a full consideration of all the options without fear of premature disclosure. Advice should be broad based and there may be a deterrent effect on external experts or stakeholders who might be reluctant to provide advice because it might be disclosed

The stakeholder meetings listed in Annex A were held to help advise Ministerial thinking and will be used to inform future health and safety policy. It is important to protect the provision of free and frank advice for the purpose of deliberation. If the records of the meetings in question were released prematurely, there is a risk that the provision of candid views would be

compromised in future. This is not in the public interest particularly where relevant negotiations are still live.

On balance I am satisfied that in this instance the public interest in maintaining the exemption at section 35(1)(a) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the meeting records in question.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

Alison Fryatt
Health and Safety Sponsorship Team
Email: Alison.fryatt@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk, or by writing to DWP, Central FoI Team, 2nd Floor The Adelphi, 1-11, John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF www.ico.gov.uk

MEETINGS BETWEEN THE RT HON. CHRIS GRAYLING AND HEALTH AND SAFETY STAKEHOLDERS SINCE 21 MARCH 2011

Organisation	Date of Meeting	Length of Meeting¹
Association of British Insurers ²	4 May 2011	1 hour
Zurich ²	4 May 2011	1 hour
British Chambers of Commerce	18 May 2011	30 minutes
Chemicals Industries Association ³	23 May 2011	1 hour, 30 minutes
EEF – The Manufacturers Organisation ³	23 May 2011	1 hour, 30 minutes
Confederation of British Industry ³	23 May 2011	1 hour, 30 minutes
Alliance of Industry Associations ³	23 May 2011	1 hour, 30 minutes
National Farmer's Union ³	23 May 2011	1 hour, 30 minutes
Environmental Services Association ³	23 May 2011	1 hour, 30 minutes
UK Contractors Group ³	23 May 2011	1 hour, 30 minutes
Trades Union Congress	9 June	1 hour
Institute of Occupational Safety and Health	20 June 2011	30 minutes
The Law Society	20 June 2011	30 minutes

¹ The length of meeting given is the time allocated for the meeting in the Minister for Employment's diary. A record is not kept of the actual duration of meetings.

² Stakeholders met as a group at a single meeting.

³ Stakeholders met as a group at a single meeting.