

Northampton
5 August 2008

Mr Lee Shailer
Information Services Directorate
Room 103, Whiteknights House
The University of Reading
PO Box 217, Reading RG6 6AH

By email imps@reading.ac.uk

**IMPS Request IMPS#00200, #00207 and #00217
Request for Information concerning
the IPCC, 2007 WGI Chapter 3 Assessment Process**

Dear Mr Shailer,

Thank you for your email. I have no problem in agreeing to a further 10 working days. The issue at hand is of the greatest importance and should be considered thoroughly.

I would ask however, to avoid a further iteration, that in your reply to me you take full account of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, under which I clearly stated, in my original letter, that my request was framed, together with the FOIA.

I am not an expert but, nonetheless, I am perplexed as to why, in a matter that the man on the Clapham Omnibus would likely think the most pressing environmental issue of our age, you have not once included the letters EIR or mentioned the Environmental Information Regulations to which they refer, in any of your responses. Under EIR s.9, I will be expecting either an agreement to a full disclosure of all IPCC AR4 assessment related information held by Reading University, or a rational explanation that you might reasonably argue before your complaints panel or the Commissioner as to why the EIR do not apply.

In the hope of saving time, I will outline my arguments, even though I believe almost all information relating to the IPCC assessment is self evidently 'environmental information' as defined under the EIR. I would ask that you explain where, if anywhere, we disagree.

The IPCC is constituted under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). I would argue that these are both environmental bodies, as of course is the IPCC.

The Role of the IPCC as internationally agreed is to "*assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation.*" If you do not agree that this is self evidently an environmental role, I would appreciate some indication of your reasoning. I also believe it greatly simplifies your position as you should release everything regardless of its classification or the assessment is not open and transparent.

The IPCC 'focal point' for the UK is the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs. Defra states: Our Mission is to enable everyone to **live within our environmental means**. This is most clearly exemplified by the need to **tackle climate change**

internationally and through domestic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to secure a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment. Defra clearly see climate change as an environmental matter.

The EIR defines 'environmental information' broadly but does state in EIR r.2(1): "environmental information" has the same meaning as in Article 2(1) of the Directive, namely any information in written, visual, aural, electronic or any other material form on - (a) the state of the elements of the environment, such as air and atmosphere, water, soil, land, landscape and natural sites including wetlands, coastal and marine areas, biological diversity and its components, including genetically modified organisms, and the interaction among these elements; (b) factors, such as substances, energy, noise, radiation or waste, including radioactive waste, emissions, discharges and other releases into the environment, affecting or likely to affect the elements of the environment referred to in (a);

I have underlined some words above and would observe that a key conclusion of the IPCC assessment reported on page 10 of the recent Summary for Policymakers stated: "*Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations.*"

Global average temperatures are a state of the atmosphere. Anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations are affected by emissions. The stuff of the IPCC assessment is, in my view, self evidently 'environmental information'. The only remaining issue you might argue is that of 'remoteness'. Here I am not asking for unconnected domestic arrangements like hotels and flight details but any information directly connected with the assessment process. On this EIR r.4(b) requires that you disseminate: (b) facts and analyses of facts which the public authority considers relevant and important in framing major environmental policy proposals.

The IPCC assessment process is an analysis of facts. The manner in which it is carried out, particularly in respect to how it interprets the internationally agreed 'Principles Governing IPCC Work', is far from remote from the 'environmental information' at the core of my request. In this respect you have already disclosed a significant piece of evidence that the Working Group I management were cavalier in their approach. When asked for advice WGI sent Review Editors a copy of Appendix A to the 'Principles' that had been superseded. Although you have not as yet disclosed it, I know that WGI also instructed its Review Editors to sign and return to them a prepared "Review Editor Statement" which is definitely not what the internationally agreed 'Principles' say in the correct version of Appendix A.

You will, no doubt, be aware that under EIR r.4 you are required to: (a) progressively make the information available to the public by electronic means which are easily accessible; and (b) take reasonable steps to organize the information relevant to its functions with a view to the active and systematic dissemination to the public of the information.

I have found your FOIA publication scheme document, but using a variety of search terms including IPCC, aerosol, cloud, climate, model, carbon footprint, emissions and so forth, I have not found any 'environmental information.' I have however found your web page for your Department of Meteorology, which you say "is a world leading centre for research in atmospheric and climate science. It is internationally recognised as a centre of excellence for

teaching and research in the science of the atmosphere and oceans, including weather systems, climate and climate change, remote sensing and atmospheric pollution.”

Clearly you must hold a great deal of environmental information which since 2005 you should have been progressively making available on line. While some may be covered by EIR s.12 exceptions, I find it hard to believe they can cover 100%.

I await your response.

Yours sincerely,

David Holland
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