

According to a legal threat issued by RELX, this is RELX's response to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights human rights grievance mechanism process communication from the Climate Rights Coalition. The February 2024 communication to RELX included requests for information regarding the company's environmental and human rights due diligence processes, as well as an understanding of when RELX would discontinue its facilitation of fossil fuel expansion and promotion of industry misinformation.

From: Whayman, Stuart (ELS-LOW)
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 8:15 AM
To: Valentini, Elia
Subject: Climate Rights Coalition grievance

Dear Dr Valentini,

I'm writing in response to your email to Erik Engstrom on 3rd May in my capacity as co-Chair of Elsevier's Climate Action Advisory Board.

Firstly, thank you for reaching out on this important topic as we share the urgency of climate change and the need to take action to address it. As you noted, at RELX and Elsevier we consider corporate responsibility for human rights and the environment to be a duty and not a voluntary matter.

As a supporter of the Climate Rights Coalition (CRC), you will be aware that we have in the past provided detailed responses which address the main points raised in the latest communication sent to RELX in February. It is unfortunate that the Climate Rights Coalition website and its representative, Kip Lyall, continue to perpetuate inaccuracies and misrepresentations which are misleading for the scientific community as well as the public. Please allow me to reiterate the facts for your benefit. In summary:

- As an information provider Elsevier does not develop, finance or facilitate new fossil fuel assets. We share the urgency of the global risk from climate change, and we take seriously the part we play in enabling the action needed to address it. We are taking well-documented, science-based action, including alignment of our operations, products and services with a net zero pathway.
- As a scientific publisher, Elsevier supports scientific discourse, underpinned by editorial independence, by publishing peer-reviewed research (630,000 articles in 2023) in our journals. Science is central to the advances we see in both cleaner and renewable energy; we believe

supporting the advancement of knowledge through evidence-based, verified research is the most effective way in which we can contribute to the energy transition and addressing the climate change challenges which the world faces today.

- Accordingly, we have actively grown, and continue to grow, our portfolio of journals supporting climate change research and renewable energy. Currently, we have 160 journals are dedicated to environmental sciences, renewable and clean energy, with new journal launches planned.
- We have reviewed our journals to ensure their missions reflect and advance the UN SDGs and promote a pathway to a net zero future. Out of our portfolio of 2,900 journals, we previously had a small number of journals that were focused on hydrocarbon science -- we have either closed those or changed their scope to ensure they support an energy transition. We also continually review the editorial boards of our journals to ensure they include expertise in climate change and renewable energy, and a greater representation from the global South.
- We have discontinued Geofacets, an earth science tool which helped spatial location. We are not a member of the OSDU Data Platform, as claimed on the CRC website.
- We have also been actively working to reduce our own environmental footprint across our business and value chain for more than 15 years. We have achieved substantial emissions reductions in that time, the figures are disclosed in our Corporate Responsibility Report. We are committed to become net zero for all direct and indirect emissions by 2040. We are guided in our efforts by an independent Climate Advisory Board.
- We are transparent about our progress as well as plans to continue decarbonizing our operations through new initiatives, including carbon pricing and targeted supply chain engagement.

Please see our [2023 progress report on our climate action program](#) in which we openly share the lessons and insights we have learnt as we continue in our net zero journey. Additionally, the [Elsevier Climate Action Roadmap](#) outlines the broad actions and approach we are taking to address climate change in our operations, and through our products and services as we move towards our 2040 goal.

I hope you will find this information helpful.

Best wishes,

Stuart Whayman

Managing Director, Researchers and Librarians

Co-Chair of Elsevier Climate Advisory Board

From: "Valentini, Elia" <evalent@essex.ac.uk>
Date: 3 May 2024 at 17:15:21 BST
To: "Engstrom, Erik (REHQ-LON)" <erik.engstrom@relx.com>
Cc: "Balisciano, Marcia (REHQ-LON)" <m.balisciano@relx.com>
Subject: RE: Climate Rights Coalition grievance

Some people who received this message don't often get email from evalent@essex.ac.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

***** External email: use caution *****

Dear Mr. Engstrom,

As an advisory board member at the Climate Rights Coalition, I'm writing to follow up on the document and questions that were submitted to the Board of Directors in February. This UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights grievance mechanism process, in part, seeks to generate clarity as it pertains to RELX's human rights due diligence procedures, research, and conclusions.

As UNGP guidelines indicate, "on an ongoing basis, business enterprises should identify and assess any actual or potential adverse human rights impacts. Specifically concerning climate impacts, the guidelines are unequivocal: "business enterprises should conduct human rights due diligence that addresses the adverse climate change-related human rights impacts that the business enterprise may cause or contribute to through its own activities, or which may be directly linked to its operations, products or services by its business relationships."

While it's promising that RELX considers "corporate responsibility for human rights and the environment [to be] a duty and not a voluntary matter," our submission indicates a concern that RELX is demonstrating an inadequate response to its influence in climate change-related human rights harms, particularly as it pertains to continued support for fossil fuel expansion that drastically exceeds our carbon budget.

Our initial communication contains extensive documentation covering climate science, the UNGP, and the obligations of businesses with respect to climate-related human rights harms; as such, I understand that it may take more time for the Board to go through the material in full before it's prepared to respond.

I therefore request that you please provide an estimate by **May 20** indicating when RELX will reply to our submission and be true to its UNGP duty to engage in meaningful consultation with potentially affected stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Dr Elia Valentini PhD, FHEA
Senior Lecturer
Environmental rep for UCU
Member of the Centre for Environment and Society
Department of Psychology and Centre for Brain Science
University of Essex

