

David J Rowlands AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

30 January 2018

Dear Mr Rowlands

‘Petition P-05-785 Suspend Marine Licence 12/45/ML to dump radioactive marine sediments from the Hinkley Point nuclear site into Wales’ coastal waters off Cardiff’

Thank you for your letter of 12 January 2018, outlining the main points raised at the petitions committee meeting on 09 January. Our response to your points are addressed below.

Sampling of sediment

On the basis of the sampling and evidence that we have previously received we are content that in our view there is no scientific basis to conduct further sampling at depth, relating to the above disposal licence: The 2009 sampling results were sufficient for us to conclude that this material was suitable to dispose at the Cardiff Grounds Site.

However, acknowledging the public interest in the matter, during a meeting with the licence holder on the 25th January, we did ask them to consider further voluntary sampling at depth for further reassurance, and we await their response. For additional public reassurance, we have already requested that Cefas undertake radiation dose analysis on the 2009 samples and will confirm the outcome of that assessment with the committee once it is completed.

Publication of results

In line with duty and policy to be open and transparent with these results they are publicly available and form part of our Public Register. In addition, these documents can be provided on request. If feasible, we will also include links to relevant documentation on our website as downloadable content, where we’ve already set up a specific web page for the Hinkley Licence which can be found here:

<https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/statements/marine-licence-to-dispose-dredged-material-off-the-coast-of-south-wales/?lang=en>

Analysis of radioactivity

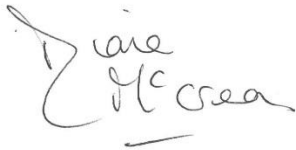
We will continue to work with Cefas to ensure that the presentation of the sampling results clearly identifies the full range of radionuclides that have been tested/screened. We will make this information available on our website.

Sampling sites and dispersal studies

We have contacted the Environment Agency regarding the radioactivity sampling and monitoring activities that are undertaken in the Severn Estuary. We will also liaise with Cefas regarding any disposal studies at the Cardiff grounds site/Severn Estuary.

We shall pass this information over to you as soon as we have it.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane McCrea', with a horizontal line underneath.

Diane McCrea

**Cadeirydd, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Chair, Natural Resources Wales**