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By email

Paul Nathanail,
Chair Bramcote Neighbourhood Forum

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Our ref: 23/04/lh/065

21 May 2018

Dear Mr Nathanail

Re: Contaminated land

Thank you for your email dated 23 April 2018. Your request for information has been handled under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR).

I have addressed your questions in the order you raised them below:

You asked:

We note that with your document “Contaminated land information sheet: risk assessment approaches for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)” published Dec 2017, PHE cite evidence relating to the PAH profile in soil based on “collated analytical data from 52 contaminated sites (1848 individual soil samples in total) that had been submitted to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) for evaluation”. However, no further details relating to these sites are provided.

We note that this analysis was also relied upon within the previous “HPA Contaminated Land Information Sheet - Risk Assessment Approaches for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (Version 5)”, which the new report updates. Within this previous report, it was stated that, in relation to the analysis of the data from these 52 sites “detailed findings will be published as soon as possible” but we are unaware of any such publication.

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please send me:

1. Details of the 52 contaminated Sites

2. *The data available for each site*
3. *The spreadsheets used to analyse the PAH ratios in the combined dataset*

Response

The project for which this information request relates to was carried out between 2008-2010, prior to the formation of PHE. We have located some of the data used in the project. The relevant folders contain a large amount of data and information for approximately 100 contaminated land sites.

We are able to supply some of the information pertaining to your request which we have summarised below:

Details of the 52 contaminated Sites

Our search indicates that in fact data from 51 sites were used in the final analysis, not 52 as previously reported. The derived ratio data from these sites are attached as per your third request.

The details of the contaminated sites are exempt from disclosure in accordance with Regulation 13 – *personal information*, exception of EIR. We are withholding this information as it contains personal identifiable information and could lead to deductive disclosure. This information includes house numbers, street names, post codes and coordinates.

The data available for each site

During our initial searches we have not been able to identify which of the 100 sites for which we have data were used in the final analysis. To determine whether we hold the information, retrieve, extract and redact information to respond to your request as it stands would exceed the cost limit of £600. The cost limit is calculated at a staff rate time at £25 per person per hour working for 24 hours to respond to the request. Therefore, the information is exempt from disclosure.

The spreadsheets used to analyse the PAH ratios in the combined dataset

The PDF file (PAH Combined Data) includes the ratios for each site and the results of the analysis of the combined dataset including minimum, maximum and mean ratios and confidence intervals. The change in number of sites does not change the PHE position on the use of the surrogate marker approach for the risk assessment of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in soil.

Yours sincerely,

FOI team