

Mr Carroll  
Request-53260-85502f8b-whatdotheyknow.com

My ref: GD/CFM1-123725223\_93863/LG  
Your ref:  
Please ask for: Mr R. Norton  
Telephone no: 0121 569 6560  
Date: 30<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Dear Mr Carroll,

**Re: Freedom of Information Request – radioactive nuclides at Albright and Wilson’s Gower and Rattlechain tips.**

Please find below the Council’s response to your Freedom of Information Request dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010:

1. *Can you identify what type and quantity of radioactive waste was found and removed from the Gower Tip site, Tividale, formerly owned by Albright and Wilson and now Rhodia before or after the site license expired in 1994?*
2. *Can you confirm that independent tests have been conducted on this site for the alpha emitter Polonium-210 and the beta emitter Lead-210, radionuclides present in phosphate ore which are enriched by the process of elemental phosphorus production, which took place at the Oldbury Site where waste containing dusts was generated, and also found in several other waste tips associated with this process in many countries? Can you give the results of these tests in Bq/g?*
3. *Given that according to the Environment Agency, Sandwell Council were made aware of “radioactive wastes” contained at the site, have you ever informed local residents about it?*

I refer to the Environment Agency’s reply to you dated the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010 (reference MC20591) in respect of the Gower Tip and can advise the Council does not hold any additional information in respect of Questions 1, 2 or 3.

Environmental Health  
**Communities and Regulatory Services Division**  
Paul Wright, Head of Communities and Regulatory Services  
PO Box 42, Lombard Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 8RU  
Fax: 0121 569 6599

4. *A previous request to the council stated "The Gower Tip has been assigned an inspection priority category of 3, i.e. contaminants may be present but are unlikely to have an unacceptable impact on key targets. The site has yet to be inspected under the strategy and therefore no determination has been made in respect of its condition; it is therefore not possible to say at this stage when this site will be subject to a more detailed investigation."*
- *are you certain and can prove that Polonium-210 and Lead-210 are not present at this site without having carried out an investigation and given that there are people now living yards from this site in newly built homes?*

The site has been assessed in accordance with the Council's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy. The position of the site within the Inspection Strategy has been assessed with consideration to the potential risk posed by the site, its environmental status and its locale.

5. *Concerning Rattlechain, the "flawed Cremer and Warner report" of 1990 only conducted a gamma emitter survey for radioactivity, therefore conveniently for the then site owners with absolutely no chance of identifying either Polonium-210 or Lead-210. At what stage, given that this site still has a site licence would you expect to carry out such a survey, given that there are also people living next to this site which still has yet to be remediated?*

May I redirect you to the Environment Agency, which currently regulates the Rattlechain Tip under the Environmental Permitting Regulations.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Norton  
**Environmental Protection Manager**

Environmental Health  
**Communities and Regulatory Services Division**  
Paul Wright, Head of Communities and Regulatory Services  
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