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By email

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Our ref: 28/07/mw /389

16 Aug 2018

Dear Ms Kneale

Re: Review of Public Health England report on the Health Risks of Shale Gas Extraction

Thank you for your email dated 28 July 2018. Your request for information has been handled under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR).

You asked:

I have answered the questions in the ordered it has been raised

I would like to request the following information with respect to the answer given to Dr Sarah Wollaston on the question of reviewing the PHE report (see reference below) .

1. What evidence has been considered since 2014?

PHE reviews published peer reviewed scientific literature to assess newly published evidence on the potential health impacts of chemical and radiological emissions associated with shale gas extraction.

2. How has that evidence been identified ?

As with the original 2014 review, new evidence is primarily identified through a literature search using databases such as Pubmed, and Scopus. This is supplemented by Internet searches for relevant reports from UK and other Governments and research or regulatory bodies

3. Who has assessed this evidence and what criteria has been used ?

The evidence is assessed by a group of environmental public health scientists, from PHE's Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards. The focus is

exclusively on the potential public health impacts of exposures to chemical and radioactive pollutants as a result of the shale gas extraction process published in 2014.

4. Have any professional or other bodies been consulted with respect to this review?

No professional or other bodies have been consulted with respect to the ongoing assessment of the evidence.

5. How was the scope of the review decided and by whom?

The scope of the ongoing review is the same as the original report, focused on the potential public health impact of shale gas extraction as a result of direct releases of chemical and radioactive pollutants

6. How much time and resource including manpower hours has been utilised in this task?

Approximately 300 hours p.a. have been spent on identifying and reviewing relevant peer reviewed publications, which is variable based on numbers of publications .

In addition I would like to request under the FOI all documents ,reports , missives including e mails and telephone discussions relating to the decision not to review the report.

PHE's continues to review the evidence on the potential public health impacts of chemical or radiological emissions associated with shale gas extraction.

Reference:

"Steve Brine The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health and Social Care Public Health England continues to review the evidence on the potential public health impacts of emissions associated with shale gas extraction and has not currently identified any significant evidence that would make it change its views stated in its 2014 Review."

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query to me in writing in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied and would like to request an internal review, then please contact us at the address above or by emailing foi@phe.gov.uk

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by writing to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Mohsena Uddin
FOI team