

Marianne Birkby
Whatdotheyknow.com



Our Ref: FOI2015/15121

31 July 2015

Dear Ms Birkby,

Thank you for your email of 19 July 2015 where you requested the following information:

The UK's first link in the nuclear chain, the Capenhurst Uranium Enrichment plant in Cheshire exports low level radioactive waste to Whitemoss Landfill, Skelmersdale in Lancashire.

What has been the total volume in weight for the years 2009 to 2014?

What has been the total size in cubic metres for the years 2009-2014?

What has been the radionuclide inventory for the years 2009-2014?

We have considered your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs') as the information you have sought disclosure of, does in our view, fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in the EIRs. We have interpreted your request to refer to low level radioactive waste. We have therefore only considered records relating to this specific area.

We have conducted a search of our records and can confirm that information falling within the scope of your request is not held by DECC.

We can confirm that the Whitemoss landfill is not specifically permitted (under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010) for the receipt and disposal of radioactive waste. On that basis, as with any other landfill, the only radioactive wastes that it would be able to accept for disposal would be those which are exempt from radioactive substances regulation. (Further information on regulation of radioactive substances, including the exemption regime that applies, can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/radioactive-substances-regulation-for-non-nuclear-sites>).

On that basis we can also confirm that neither DECC nor the relevant regulator, the Environment Agency, hold the specific information you have requested. There is no requirement for consignors of radioactive waste that is exempt from radioactive substances regulation to collate or provide such information, either to the regulator or to any landfill operator.

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information, you may request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter. If you wish to request an internal review, please contact:

Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
Orchard 1, 6th Floor
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET
Email: foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Office for Nuclear Development