

Our Ref: JK/CD/JW/
EXT05-A-
F0185566

Your Ref: -

02 November 2015

Ned Sharratt
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

By email: petitions@scottish.parliament.uk

Dear Mr Sharratt

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1563 (Sewage sludge spreading)
Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish government to ban the use of sewage sludge on land and to look for alternative acceptable methods of disposal as adopted in other European countries

Thank you for your recent letter advising that the Public Petitions Committee considered Petition PE1563 again on 7 October 2015 and agreed to write to SEPA again to ask that we address the concerns and questions of the petitioners in their letter of 22 September 2015, the link to which you provided. Our response to the questions is attached.

As a public body committed to openness and transparency, SEPA feels it is appropriate that this response be placed on the public record. If you require further clarification on any aspect of this correspondence, please contact Chris Dailly, Waste and Landfill Tax Manager, SEPA Stirling Office, at the address shown below.

Yours sincerely

John Kenny
Head of National Operations

Enc



Chairman
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- 1) *Do your figures for sludge include that produced by producing/management facilities are operated by companies employed under a PFI arrangement?*

The Scottish data included in the SEPA submission was provided to SEPA by Scottish Water. Scottish Water has confirmed that this data includes PFI sludge production figures.

SEPA also obtained information on sludge production, use and disposal across Europe from Eurostat and this data was summarised in Tables 2-8. Scottish Water has confirmed that this data should also include the Scottish Water and PFI sludge produced in Scotland as part of the UK figures.

- 2) *SEPA notes that as part of the notifications recorded figures for 2014-15, 350 of the 490 notifications are for two incidents. Are you able to provide details of the sites and the contractors involved?*

These incidents were:

- a) Drumcross Farm, Erskine. Odour arising from sewage sludge stored under a paragraph 8(1) exemption. The contractor was James McCaig Farms, Wester Jawcraig, Falkirk (this incident contributed to the majority of the 350 notifications);
- b) Killochries Fold, Near Kilmacolm. Odour arising from sewage sludge stored under a paragraph 8(1) exemption. The contractor was James McCaig Farms, Wester Jawcraig, Falkirk.
- 3) *How many private contractors and PFI contractors work in the production and management of sludge in Scotland?*

In answering this question, SEPA has interpreted the terms “production” and “management” widely, including companies involved in operating sludge production and treatment facilities, companies storing sludge prior to application to land and those companies spreading sludge on agricultural and non-agricultural land:

- Aberdeen Environmental Services
- Anglo Scottish Bio Solids Ltd
- Augean
- Ayr Environmental Services Ltd
- Catchment Highland Ltd
- Catchment Moray Ltd
- Catchment Tay Ltd
- Caledonian Environmental Services
- Digit Resource Management
- Grampian Waste Water Services Ltd
- Hargreaves Surface Mining Ltd

- James McCaig Farms
- Kelda Water Services
- MSIS
- Oran Environmental Solutions Ltd
- OTW Services Ltd
- Scotia Water Dalmuir Ltd
- Superclean
- Scotloo
- SMW Ltd
- Stirling Water Ltd
- Thames Water Plc
- Veolia Water Organics Recycling Ltd

The list above does not include details of:

- farmers who register waste management exemptions to store sludge prior to spreading on agricultural land;
- companies involved in alternative end uses of sludge such as incineration or landfill;
- companies solely involved in providing drain cleaning or septic tank emptying services.

Waste carriers who transport commercial, industrial and household waste as part of their business are required to register with SEPA. However, the registration requirements do not distinguish between the type of waste to be carried.

Therefore, it is not possible to identify those registered waste carriers who transport sewage sludge.

SEPA
02 November 2015