



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra Update: Contaminated Land Policy

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Overview

- Part 2A Update
- State of Contaminated Land Survey
- CLEA - Human Bio-monitoring
- Welsh Government Update
- Update on EU activity

Part 2A Update

- C4SL project erratum published 11 December
 - Minor changes identified
 - No concerns found with overarching framework
- Main report/relevant annexes updated
- Companion paper updated
- Companion paper now also includes Planning Practice Guidance reference

Part 2A Update

- **Capital Grants**

- £500k capital allowance – fully allocated
- 2015/16 funding – not confirmed
- Investigating further funding option

- **Expert Panel**

- Assessing how the Expert Panel can help further
- Case study publication soon

State of Contaminated Land

- Tendered as a research project to deliver:
 - A survey of LAs in England & Wales, and the wider contaminated land sector
 - Assess the impact of the revised Statutory Guidance
 - Review, quality assurance and analysis of the responses

Response Rates & Initial Observations

Response

- **61%** Local Authority response rate
- **254** Stakeholder responses for the impact survey

Initial observations:

- Good understanding of revised Statutory Guidance
- Guidance provides greater clarity and has improved decision making
- Funding reduction has impacted Part 2A
- People would use the National Expert Panel for help with category 2/3 boundary determinations
- Blight is an issue

Next steps (SoCL)

- Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales are using the survey results to prepare State of Contaminated Land 2000-2013 reports, to be published first quarter 2015
- Defra will use the information:
 - Have problems been addressed and benefits realised?
 - Are further steps needed?

Human Bio-monitoring Workshop

- Recent workshop convened by Defra to explore whether research could (or should) be undertaken to attempt to validate the Contaminated Land Exposure Assessment (CLEA) model using human bio-monitoring (HBM) techniques
- Expertise in carrying out HBM studies, as well as representatives from relevant government and stakeholder organisations concerned with land contamination

Human Bio-monitoring Workshop

- Generally supportive of the use of HBM techniques as a potential tool
- Review of the existing literature was considered to be an important first step
- Both qualitative and quantitative studies were viewed as being equally useful

Overview of Position in Wales

- Minimal level of proactive Part 2A activity in Wales
- Planning regime currently primary method of dealing with land contamination
- Consultation exercise undertaken in June 2013
- **Consultation Responses (summary published January 2014):**
 - Main themes that emerged:
 - Lack of funding/ resources
 - Public health
 - Guidance
 - Data
 - Inconsistencies amongst local authorities

Welsh Government response so far

- New Land Contamination Advisory Group established
- Data collection from local authorities on site identification and assessment
- Improved communication with local authorities on new/ amended government policies
- Establishing links with universities to scope potential research projects
- Upcoming publication of State of Contaminated Land in Wales report
- Examining issues beyond Part 2A – planning regime, brownfield sites, climate change.
- Publication of C4SLs

Wales: Future Challenges

- Local authorities securing funding/ maintaining resources during difficult financial climate
- Restructuring of local authority boundaries in Wales (Williams Report)

Europe

- Soil Framework Directive withdrawn in May 2014
 - UK part of a blocking minority, proposals expensive (proposals included a contaminated land register)
- New Commission College = unknown approach
 - an emphasis on better legislation
 - BUT Commission officials still keen on legislation
- Next steps:
 - Land as a resource communication (land use), plus soils proposals (soil protection)
 - Developing a UK position

International Engagement

- How can we engage better internationally
- Working with UKTI
- What support is need from government

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