

Corporate report: Sellafield Magazine: issue 8

Sellafield Magazine takes you behind the scenes at the Sellafield site and the work of Sellafield Ltd.

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If you have any feedback about the Sellafield Magazine, email editor@sellafieldmagazine.com

Press release: Crackdown on illegal waste and fishing activities

During 2017 the Environment Agency successfully prosecuted 108 individuals and companies for flouting waste and fishing laws in the North East resulting in almost £170,000 in fines and costs.

There were 16 prosecutions of individuals or companies for waste offences, amounting to total fines of £62,763 and costs of £40,493.

There were also two custodial sentences, three suspended sentences, two community orders and two rehabilitation orders. The courts also awarded a total of £14,735 in compensation to those affected by the crimes, which included a landowner left with costs of £100,000 to remove 585 tonnes of waste dumped on their land.

In addition, the Environment Agency revoked two environmental permits from waste companies who continually failed to meet their permit conditions.

Courts imposed a further £19,162 in fines and costs on an individual and company for twice polluting a protected water course.

In fisheries enforcement, there were three serious offences resulting in

£1115 in fines, costs and victim surcharge, plus two 12 month conditional discharges.

There were a further 87 offenders prosecuted for 119 rod licence offences, including 77 offences for fishing without a licence. This resulted in total fines, costs and victim surcharge of £29,461, with three offenders also given conditional discharges.

Enforcement activity has taken place right across the North East in Teesside, Tyne and Wear, County Durham and Northumberland.

The Environment Agency's enforcement teams work alongside other specialist teams to support businesses in abiding by their permit conditions, but take tough action against those who deliberately flout regulations.

Fisheries enforcement officers carry out regular patrols and act on information and intelligence to target illegal activity on our rivers.

Jamie Fletcher, Environment Manager at the Environment Agency in the North East, said:

We take illegal waste and fishing activity very seriously. We have had some excellent results in court over the last year and will continue to work hard in the coming year to ensure enforcement action is taken against those who flout the law.

Waste crime can cause serious pollution to the environment, puts communities at risk and undermines legitimate businesses, impacting on investment and economic growth.

Similarly those fishing illegally are cheating other anglers and putting the future of the sport and quality of our rivers in jeopardy.

We have specialist teams that work hard to target those suspected of being involved in illegal activity and to ensure any necessary action is taken against them.

We work closely with a wide range of partners including local authorities, police and the fire service, and I'd like to thank them for their continued support.

To report information about illegal activity contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. To report a crime ongoing dial 999.

News story: Top accolade for nuclear record-keeping

'Place of Deposit' (PoD) status was granted by The National Archives at Kew (TNA) and National Records of Scotland in December 2017, on schedule, after a comprehensive assessment of all operational aspects at the £20 million facility near Wick. It is one of the largest repositories outside London to be accredited by the TNA.

This means Nucleus (The Nuclear and Caithness Archives) has met all the UK's stringent criteria for the safeguarding, preserving and cataloguing of important public information on behalf of the government.

Martin Robb, Programme Manager for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) Information Governance Programme, which is responsible for records management, said:

Our specialist contractor, Restore Ltd, has worked incredibly hard to secure Place of Deposit status and we're extremely proud of their achievement.

The news comes just weeks after the facility's sleek, angular lines impressed judges in the annual Architects' Journal awards, collecting two of the top trophies: Editor's Choice and Public Building of the Year. Edinburgh-based Reiach and Hall Architects feature the stunning design on the home page of their website.

Nucleus, located next to Wick airport in Caithness, Scotland, opened its doors for business early in 2017 and a programme is currently under way to transfer records from all the NDA's sites across UK, estimated to take four years. This painstaking 'sift and lift' process requires millions of documents to be examined before being either destroyed or carefully indexed and packaged for the move north.

Eventually, decades-worth of NDA records, both digital and hard copy, will be housed at Nucleus where they will be available for ongoing research. Importantly, Nucleus is also the central repository for the vital waste records associated with delivering a geological disposal facility and deferred decommissioning.

Dounreay's photographic collection was the set of first nuclear records transferred to Nucleus, followed by the industry-wide epidemiological records.

Martin added:

With PoD status now secured, we can really begin the full-scale

transfer of records. The collection from Harwell is next in line, followed closely by Dounreay records and then the stored material from Hinton House and other stores in Warrington.

Each collection of records requires a full programme of careful examination, destruction where appropriate – duplicates for example – and then indexing, packaging, transfer, preservation if required and cataloguing at Nucleus.

Sellafield alone has more than 130,000 boxes of archived records in off-site storage, plus material on site and in various offices. Magnox Ltd, with 12 sites, has a similar-sized collection in storage – estimated as stretching, if laid out, to more than 120km worth of paperwork. The number of electronic records held across the estate, meanwhile, is believed to number hundreds of millions.

[NDA archive: Nucleus \(the Nuclear and Caithness Archives\)](#)

[Notice: Unlocking the Severn \(Diglis, Lincomb, Holt, Bevere\): Compulsory Purchase Orders](#)

Updated: An additional map added to complement previous version. Environment Agency (Unlocking the River Severn) (Lincomb) Compulsory Purchase Order 2018 – revised August 2018.

These documents have been submitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation of the Environment Agency's making of the Compulsory Purchase Orders in relation of land by the River Severn at Diglis, Lincomb, Bevere and Holt, Worcestershire

[Detailed guide: UKEF: Environmental, Social and Human Rights risk management](#)

Environmental, Social and Human Rights policy

As part of our support to UK exporters and in line with our international commitments, we identify and, where appropriate, conduct due diligence to assess the [Environmental, Social and Human Rights](#) (ESHR) risks and impacts of projects we are asked to support overseas.

The [Policy and Practice on ESHR Due Diligence and Monitoring statement](#) informs exporters, banks, project sponsors and other interested parties on our arrangements for:

- identifying ESHR risks and impacts and carrying out due diligence to be satisfied that, as far as practically possible, we support projects which should be constructed and operated in line with relevant standards
- monitoring alignment of projects with relevant ESHR standards over the life of UKEF support

Our note on [Human Rights and Social Risks and Impacts](#) describes UKEF's approach to identifying and managing social and human rights risks and impacts of projects we are asked to support overseas.

The [ESHR flowchart](#) shows the processes we follow when considering environmental, health, safety, social and human rights impacts.

The [Export Guarantee Advisory Committee](#) advises the Secretary of State for International Trade on our operations, including ESHR risks.

The Equator Principles

We adopted the [Equator Principles](#) in 2016. This is a global framework for ESHR decision-making in financing projects. Find out more about our [commitment](#).

- [26 June 2017: UK Export Finance joins Equator Principles steering committee](#)
- [4 November 2016: UKEF's implementation of the Equator Principles](#)
- [31 March 2016: UKEF adopts Equator Principles](#)

Our announcements

UKEF supports UK companies export all over the world. Our latest projects include:

- [Bee'ah's headquarters](#), designed by the late Dame Zaha Hadid and built by Carillion, which will be the first building of its kind in the city of Sharjah to be powered entirely by renewable and recoverable energy sources, whilst using recycled materials in its construction

Category A projects

Category A projects are those with the potential to have significant adverse environmental and/or social impacts.

We update our list of [Category A projects](#), whenever we consider or support a Category A project.

ESHR risk and impact categorisations

We publish data on new and existing ESHR risk and impact categorisations and contingent liabilities as part of our Annual Report and Accounts:

- [Environmental, Social and Human Rights risk and impact categorisations 2016 to 2017](#)
- [Environmental, Social and Human Rights risk and impact categorisations 2015 to 2016](#)