

Dear ,

ATISN 27449 - Industrial Waste

Information requested

- a) The sites around the Port Talbot area marked by a red diamond in photo 1 attached to your request.
- b) A list of all sites marked by a red diamond in photo 1 in the Afan Ogwr Rhondda area.
- c) Information on what steps have been taken by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for monitoring the sites listed in response to question a) and b) in recent years.
- d) Information on how many of PCB 77, 126 and 169 were detected by NRW at the sites listed under a) and b), and what plans NRW had in cleaning up these sites.
- e) A response on why it has taken a Welsh Actor to raise concerns that Douglas Gowan had been fighting Monsanto for over 50 years.

In respect of question e), we advised you on 3 September in our Acknowledgement email that the Welsh Government does not hold the information requested.

Our response

a) The sites around the Port Talbot area marked by a red diamond in photo 1 attached to your request.

The map provided is of insufficient resolution to allow the Welsh Government to identify with confidence the specific sites represented by the red diamond markers in the Port Talbot area.

If you are able to provide a higher resolution copy of the map, or alternatively identify the sites by name, location or grid reference, we would be happy to consider whether any information is held and respond accordingly.

b) A list of all sites marked by a red diamond in photo 1 in the Afan Ogwr Rhondda area.

Whilst the map does not provide sufficient detail to identify all red diamond markers within the Afan Ogwr Rhondda area, the following labelled sites can be identified and have therefore been used in our assessment:

- Brofiscin (former limestone quarry, Groes-faen, near Llantrisant)
- Treforest Wiggins Teape
- Maendy Quarry

c) Information on what steps have been taken by NRW for monitoring the sites listed in response to question a) and b) in recent years.

No sites could be identified in response to question a) because the map provided was not of sufficient resolution or detail to determine with confidence which sites were represented by the red diamond markers in the Port Talbot area.

In relation to question b), the following sites were identified from the labelled locations shown on the map, Brofiscin Quarry (former limestone quarry, Groes-faen, near Llantrisant), Treforest Wiggins Teape and Maendy Quarry.

To assist with understanding the information below, it may be helpful to explain that contaminated land in Wales is regulated under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Under this regime, local authorities are responsible for identifying and determining contaminated land. Where a site meets specific criteria and is designated a "Special Site", regulatory responsibility transfers from the local authority to NRW. The purpose of the regime is to address unacceptable risks to human health and the environment and to ensure that land is suitable for its current use.

Brofiscin Quarry

In 2005, the site was determined as contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 due to impacts on controlled waters. It was subsequently designated a Special Site, resulting in regulatory responsibility transferring from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to NRW.

Between 2005 and 2011, investigations and risk assessments were undertaken to support remediation of the site. Remediation works included the installation of an engineered cap to prevent rainfall entering the waste mass, reduce contaminant migration, and prevent direct contact with buried waste. The remediation was completed between 2011 and 2013, with funding provided by the Welsh Government and voluntary contributions from former site users, including Monsanto, Veolia and BP.

The site is currently considered remediated, meaning measures have been taken to address contamination and ensure that associated risks are appropriately managed.

Treforest Wiggins Teape

The map provided with your request contains a labelled reference to "Treforest Wiggins Teape". However, Welsh Government has not identified any recorded information within the scope of this request relating to monitoring, remediation or regulatory activity undertaken by NRW at this site in recent years.

Maendy Quarry

The site is currently regulated by NRW through an Environmental Permit associated with the site's restoration scheme. The most recent permit permits the discharge of surface water from the site and requires management measures, including treatment of drainage water leaving the site.

Monitoring has identified low levels of PCBs within drainage water leaving the site and NRW has undertaken ongoing regulatory oversight in relation to those findings. The site remains subject to environmental regulation and permit controls.

Detailed information relating to the environmental permits, permit conditions, compliance assessments and NRW's regulatory activities is held by NRW. Information about making a Freedom of Information request to NRW is available at: <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/contact-us/freedom-of-information-requests/?lang=en>.

If you would like us to transfer this element of your request to NRW under section 44 of the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please let us know and we will be happy to do so.

Further information relating to Welsh Government correspondence regarding Maendy Quarry, including information provided by NRW and Veolia concerning PCB monitoring and the site's environmental permit arrangements, has previously been released under:

- [ATISN 24463 – Maendy Quarry Information and Correspondence](#)

d) Information on how many of PCB 77, 126 and 169 were detected by NRW at the sites listed under a) and b), and what plans NRW had in cleaning up these sites.

No recorded information has been identified which specifies the detection levels of PCB 77, PCB 126 or PCB 169 at the sites identified in response to question b).

No sites were identified in response to question a) as the map provided was not of sufficient resolution to determine with confidence which sites were represented by the red diamond markers in the Port Talbot area.

The information reviewed refers generally to the presence of PCBs, suspected PCB wastes and monitoring associated with PCBs at certain sites. However, no information has been identified which records detections of the specific PCB congeners requested.

In relation to NRW's activities and any plans for site clean-up:

- Brofiscin Quarry: Following its determination as contaminated land and designation as a Special Site, NRW undertook investigation, risk assessment and oversight of remediation works, including the installation of an engineered cap to manage contamination and associated risks. The site is currently considered remediated.
- Maendy Quarry: NRW continues to regulate the site through an Environmental Permit. Monitoring has identified low levels of PCBs in drainage water, which remain subject to NRW's regulatory oversight.
- Treforest Wiggins Teape: Whilst the site name appears on the map provided with your request, Welsh Government has not identified information within the

scope of this request relating to PCB detections, remediation activities or clean-up plans undertaken by NRW at this site.

No specific plans relating to the clean-up of PCB 77, PCB 126 or PCB 169 have been identified within the information reviewed.

The Welsh Government has previously released information relating to PCB monitoring and regulatory correspondence concerning Maendy Quarry under ATISN 24463 - Maendy Quarry Information and Correspondence (see above link). You may find this publication helpful for additional context regarding monitoring undertaken at the site.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely