

Annex E

Energy and the environment

Carbon dioxide emissions

E.1 Provisional 2016 results for UK Greenhouse Gas emissions and progress towards targets were published on 30 March 2017. A copy of the statistical release and associated data tables are available on the BEIS section of the GOV.UK website at:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provisional-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2016

Oil pollution, oil releases and gas flaring

E.2 The amounts of oil released around the coasts of the United Kingdom and offshore (North Sea) are small in relation to total oil production, with the amounts discharged on drill cuttings, and with produced water generally much larger than from offshore installation releases. The total amount of oil released offshore during 2016 was approximately 9 tonnes.

E.3 The number of oil release reports recorded in 2016 amounts to 238, which is slightly lower than the 243 reported during 2015. Of those reported in 2016, 237 were for releases less than 1 tonne.

E.4 The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations 2005 (OPPC) came into effect in August 2005. Under OPPC installations are granted a permit for activities discharging oil-contaminated water to sea, but the oil content must not exceed 30 milligrams per litre. The average content of oil in produced water for 2016, for the UKCS as a whole, was 16.99 milligrams per litre compared to 13.84 milligrams per litre in the previous year.

E.5 Under the terms of petroleum production licences, gas may be flared only with the consent of the Secretary of State. Flaring at offshore installations in 2016 was estimated to be 3.07 million cubic metres of gas per day, 6 per cent lower than in 2015. In 2016 gas flared was equivalent to about 3 per cent of UK production.

Data sources

E.6 Figures for the total number of oil releases reported are collected by the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea Annual Surveys of Oil Pollution around the Coasts of the United Kingdom.

E.7 Further information on oil spills and discharges including historical data is available on the oil and gas section of the GOV.UK website at:

www.gov.uk/oil-and-gas-environmental-alerts-and-incident-reporting.

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