



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

By email

Energy Group
Energy Development Unit
Offshore Environment and Decommissioning
Atholl House
86/88 Guild Street
Aberdeen
AB11 6AR

gov.uk/decc
offshore.inspectorate@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Ref No: 13/0876

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your email of 24 June 2013 where you requested the following information:

- *I am contacting you because I would like to know exactly what oil installations in our waters are allowed to discharge?*
- *I see from the website that there are such things as OPPC permits? Maybe you can enlighten me and tell me which oil majors here in north sea currently have permits to dump such oily mixtures over the side of their rigs?*

We have considered your request in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) as the information you have sought disclosure of, does in our view, fall within the definition of 'environmental information' as stated in the EIRs.

Under these regulations you have the right to:

- Know whether we hold the information you require
- Be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions or exceptions under the Act which may apply).

I can confirm that the Department holds the information you have requested. The following link provides you with a full list of permits applied for and issued under the Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations (2005), commonly known as OPPC permits;

<https://www.gov.uk/oil-and-gas-environmental-data>



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All oil releases to sea are prohibited under these regulations. An oil and gas operator can however apply for an OPPC permit which contains explicit conditions under which oil discharges to sea can be permitted. The vast majority of companies operating oil and gas installations on the UKCS will have applied for and been issued with an OPPC permit which will cover discharges from, for example, produced water systems, drainage systems, sand management systems, drilling operations etc.

Appeals Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to the Information Rights Unit - foi@Decc.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Offshore Environmental Inspectorate
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