

Annex E

Energy and the environment

Carbon dioxide emissions

E.1 Provisional 2017 results for UK Greenhouse Gas emissions and progress towards targets were published on 29 March 2018. 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-2017

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 2017 was approximately 23 tonnes.

E.3 The number of oil release reports recorded in 2017 amounts to 220, which is slightly lower than the 238 reported during 2016. 2016 had only one incident where oil exceeded 1 tonne of oil released but 2017 had 6. These 6 reports account for 16 tonnes of oil released and one single incident in April accounted for 8 tonnes.

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 2017, for the UKCS as a whole, was 20.41 milligrams per litre compared to 16.99 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 2017 was estimated to be 3.82 million cubic metres of gas per day, 25 per cent higher than in 2016. In 2017 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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