



Environmental Permitting and the role of Public Health England

About Public Health England

Public Health England (PHE) exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities. We do this through world-leading science, research, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health service. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy. We provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific and delivery expertise and support.

Role of Public Health England in Environmental Permitting

The Environment Agency, as regulator, has responsibility for protecting the environment and public health from the impact of emissions from permitted installations. When consulted during the permit application stage, PHE provides expert and independent advice to the Environment Agency on the potential human health impacts of emissions arising from existing or proposed regulated facilities. This advice helps the Environment Agency make a decision on whether or not to grant a permit to the facility.

PHE's advisory role is outlined further within the 2015 PHE publication *Environmental permitting and the role of Public Health England*¹.

The Environment Agency may also approach PHE where they have concerns that a permitted site is impacting or has the potential to impact on public health. PHE will assess the risk by reviewing the available information provided by the regulator and provide advice and support on any potential public health impacts.

¹ Available at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/477277/Environmental_permitting_guide_Nov_2015.pdf. Accessed 16/04/2021