

SEPA Update to Grangemouth Community Council – 20/01/2021

Cyber Attack

On Christmas Eve, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency confirmed that it was responding to a significant cyber-attack affecting its contact centre, internal systems, processes and internal communications. We are continuing to respond to the ongoing ransomware attack likely to be by international serious and organised cyber-crime groups. The matter is subject to a live criminal investigation.

SEPA's approach continues to be to take the best professional advice from multi-agency partners, including Police Scotland and cyber security experts, with the multi-agency response focused on eradication, remediation and recovery.

For the time being, we need to protect the criminal investigation and its systems. Consequently some of our internal systems and external data products will remain offline in the short term. Priority regulatory, monitoring, flood forecasting and warning services are adapting and continuing to operate. Information on how to access these and [contact us](https://www.sepa.org.uk/cyberattack) are available on our website at www.sepa.org.uk/cyberattack.

Priority regulatory, monitoring, flood forecasting and warning services are adapting and continuing to operate.

This includes:

- Delivery of nationally important flood forecasting and warning products, with flood alerts and warnings being issued within 24 hours of the Christmas Eve attack.
- Contact centre and web self-help services which are being slowly restored, including SEPA's Floodline, 24 Hour Pollution Hotline and environmental event online reporting.
- Regulatory teams continuing to prioritise the most significant environmental events, high hazard sites and sites of community concern.
- Teams quickly working on interim ways to authorise regulated site activity, prioritising nationally important sectors such as food and drink, energy, recycling and waste.

In addition to ensuring the continued delivery of priority flood forecasting and warning services, our regulatory approach will continue to prioritise supporting Scottish businesses and Scotland's recovery.

We will help businesses meet their environmental obligations and prioritise authorising economic activity. We will continue our risk based approach to regulation, focusing the most effort on sites or sectors which require oversight or where there is a risk of criminality or organisations seeking to take advantage of the ongoing cyber-attack.

Site updates

- **Calachem:** We have not received any complaints since the previous update. Nothing further to update.
- **Petroineos:** We received 5 complaints relating to noise over the period from 10 to 11pm on 5th January. We are following up on these complaints.
- **Ineos Chemicals:** We have received 26 web complaints about noise and flaring over the period since 6 January. We are following up in these complaints. Over this period Ineos Chemicals has been starting up a series of plant units. SEPA was notified of the planned flaring associated with the start-up of these units and updates have been added to the Grangemouth hub.
- **Ineos Infrastructure:** After a period of burning oil the power station is now back to normal operation burning gas.
- **Other sites:** Nothing new to update.

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