

## Redacted Correspondence 6

**From:** SEPA  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 13, 2011 08:59 AM  
**To:** HPA; FSA  
**Subject:** Dalgety Bay

Dear all,

Yesterday, SEPA recovered a source from Dalgety Bay which had an indicative in field activity of 13 MBq Ra-226 (which is an order of magnitude greater than anything previously reported). As the majority of area around where the source was recovered has yet to be monitored by SEPA we cannot exclude the possibility of further similar sources being present. As a precautionary and interim measure we have therefore asked Fife Council to erect further signs and demarcate the area with tape until SEPA has been able to complete the survey of the area (and remove any significant sources detected).

A separate brief will be issued to the Dalgety Bay Forum this morning.

We expect details of this find to enter the public domain at about 10.00 this morning, please treat this in confidence until this time.

██████████

**From:** SEPA  
**Sent:** 10 October 2011 12:53  
**To:** HPA; FSA  
**Subject:** Dalgety Bay update 10 10 11.doc

████████████████████

Please see attached

██████████

### Dalgety Bay – Radium Sources Update

**10/10/11**

The latest MoD contractor clearance of radium particles from the intertidal area of Dalgety Bay commenced on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and was complete by 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011. During this time 46 sources were recovered by both the MoD

contractor and SEPA. However, since that date SEPA has undertaken further limited surveying of the affected areas and the total number of sources is now in excess of 100. We considered that some of these sources were 'missed' by the MoD contractor during its survey.

On 8<sup>th</sup> October two high activity sources 650,000 and 330,000 Bq Ra-226 were recovered from the intertidal area (size estimates of 4 x 10 and 7x 10 mm) and were within the upper 30 cm of the sediment surface. A further high activity source was detected at depth, however the dose rate was so high that a specialist team has been requested to recover this source. However, as the source is buried at depth it does not pose a significant hazard to the public.

As only a small portion of the intertidal area where these two high activity sources were recovered from has been surveyed by SEPA, there is the distinct possibility that further such sources may exist in that area.

SEPA will contact the MoD to request that its contractor resurveys this area and is planning to discuss with Fife Council the closure of this area to the public until the hazards can be assessed.

[REDACTED]

**From:** SEPA  
**Sent:** 10 October 2011 12:53  
**To:** HPA; FSA  
**Subject:** Dalgety Bay update 10 10 11.doc

[REDACTED]

Please see attached

[REDACTED]

**From:** HPA  
**Sent:** 21 September 2010 11:49  
**To:** SEPA  
**Subject:** RE: Dalgety Bay Forum Meeting on 27th September

[REDACTED]

That's great – public transport was looking a bit painful. Do you have a phone number for [REDACTED] so I can call him and make arrangements?

Is there anything you are expecting to come up that you may want an HPA view on?

See you Monday.

████████

**From:** SEPA

**Sent:** 21 September 2010 09:25

**To:** HPA

**Subject:** RE: Dalgety Bay Forum Meeting on 27th September

Morning

I met with ██████████ ██████████ yesterday – and he said he will give you a lift

████████

**From:** HPA

**Sent:** 12 August 2010 11:55

**To:** SEPA

**Subject:** Dalgety Bay Forum Meeting on 27th September

████████

████████ ██████████ has informed me that he is unable to make the meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> September. Can you let me know if you would like a representative from HPA – I should be able to attend if this is the case.

████████

I have copied all this to COMARE secretariat for info.

████████

████████

**From:** HPA

**Sent:** 14 November 2011 11:27

**To:** SEPA

**Subject:** Dalgety Bay

████████

I have discussed the position with [REDACTED] (the HPA observer on COMARE) and reiterated the Committee's view that skin dose is a critical factor in deciding on an overall response to the situation: I shall copy the email which I sent to her on Saturday. COMARE's immediate position, however, is that SEPA should take immediate steps to remove the second (and any other) high activity source from the area.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** SEPA

**Sent:** 05 December 2011 09:11

**To:** HPA

**Subject:** RE: Telecon to discuss setting up monitoring protocols

Morning all,

Anytime today is fine for me

[REDACTED]

**From:** HPA

**Sent:** 02 December 2011 09:49

**To:** SEPA; HPA

**Subject:** RE: Telecon to discuss setting up monitoring protocols

Dear All

Further to the email below, I have just realised that [REDACTED] is not in work today due to a Scottish public holiday, therefore could I please have your availability for Monday and Tuesday next week.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** HPA

**Sent:** 02 December 2011 08:20

**To:** SEPA; HPA

**Subject:** Telecon to discuss setting up monitoring protocols

**Importance:** High

Dear All

█████ would like to have a telecon today to discuss the above, therefore can you please let me know your availability for today (probably no more than 1 hour)

Many thanks

█████

**From:** HPA  
**Sent:** 08 November 2011 15:45  
**To:** ; @scotland.gsi.gov.uk;  
**Subject:** Dalgety Bay

All,  
We've been approached by the BBC Radio Forth for our view on Dalgety Bay.  
We've supplied the statement below;

An HPA spokesman said: "Based on the information seen so far by the HPA, the Agency supports SEPA's precautionary advice and the action it has taken, which will minimise the risk of public exposure to radioactive material. The HPA notes that one high activity particle has been recovered so far but that the majority of radiologically contaminated objects have contained relatively low activity. However in the light of the number of recent finds it is the HPA's view that a detailed public health risk assessment should be carried out."

Cheers

**From:** HPA  
**Sent:** 08 November 2011 15:45  
**To:** SEPA  
**Subject:** Dalgety Bay

Dear both,  
We've been approached by the BBC for our view on Dalgety Bay.  
We've supplied the statement below;

An HPA spokesman said: "Based on the information seen so far by the HPA, the Agency supports SEPA's precautionary advice and the action it has taken, which will minimise the risk of public exposure to radioactive material. The HPA notes that one high activity particle has been recovered so far but that the majority of radiologically contaminated objects have contained relatively low activity. However in the light of the number of recent finds it is the HPA's view that a detailed public health risk assessment should be carried out."

Cheers

**From:** HPA  
**Sent:** 08 November 2011 15:46

**To:** SEPA  
**Subject:** Dalgety Bay

Just so we're forewarned, next time you do anything on dalgety bay could you give me a heads up?  
Thanks

**From:** SEPA  
**Sent:** 13 October 2011 14:07  
**To:** HPA  
**Subject:** Dalgety Bay

*Regards,*



**From:** HPA  
**Sent:** 08 November 2011 15:45  
**To:** @nhs.net; NHS NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND'  
**Subject:** Dalgety Bay

Both

We've been approached by the BBC for our view on Dalgety Bay.  
We've supplied the statement below;

An HPA spokesman said: "Based on the information seen so far by the HPA, the Agency supports SEPA's precautionary advice and the action it has taken, which will minimise the risk of public exposure to radioactive material. The HPA notes that one high activity particle has been recovered so far but that the majority of radiologically contaminated objects have contained relatively low activity. However in the light of the number of recent finds it is the HPA's view that a detailed public health risk assessment should be carried out."

Cheers

**From:** HPA  
**Sent:** 16 November 2011 09:39  
**To:** SEPA  
**Subject:** RE: Dalgety Bay Q&As

Both,

Morning.

Just to confirm that our Dalgety Bay webpage is now live if you want to change your site to reflect our page.

It can be found

at <http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/Radiation/UnderstandingRadiation/UnderstandingRadiationTopics/RadiationIncidents/DalgetyBay/>

Can I also confirm [REDACTED], following our chat last night, the press conference is now not going ahead?

I'd just like to be 100pc on this as if there's still a chance we'll need to organise staff travelling to Stirling and we'd need to do this today.

If you could let me know it'd be really helpful.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** SEPA

**Sent:** 14 November 2011 12:53

**To:** HPA

**Subject:** Dalgety Bay Q&As

Hi [REDACTED],

I just wanted to quickly touch base, as [REDACTED] is off on holiday (just in case she didn't mention it before she left).

I know that we are currently hosting Q&As for you, as your website was down on Friday. Can you let me know when the document goes live on your site please, so I can change our site to have link, rather than the full text.

Thanks very much indeed

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** HPA

**Sent:** 16 November 2011 09:49

**To:** SEPA

**Subject:** RE: Dalgety Bay Q&As

Thanks [REDACTED]. Really helpful to know.

Cheers

**From:** SEPA

**Sent:** 16 November 2011 09:48

**To:** HPA; SEPA

**Subject:** RE: Dalgety Bay Q&As

Thanks [REDACTED]. We will amend our website to make a link to yours.

I confirm that a press conference will not be taking place. The press may turn up and SEPA will give interviews and comment (on behalf of SEPA only) if asked.

Happy to refer any journalists on to you and provide your contact details if you so wish.

We will also issue a press release or statement afterwards.

Cheers,

██████████

**From:** SEPA  
**Sent:** 14 November 2011 12:53  
**To:** HPA  
**Subject:** Dalgety Bay Q&As

Hi ██████████,

I know that we are currently hosting Q&As for you, as your website was down on Friday. Can you let me know when the document goes live on your site please, so I can change our site to have link, rather than the full text.

Thanks very much indeed

Kind regards

██████████

**From:** HPA  
**Sent:** 08 November 2011 16:52  
**To:** SEPA  
**Subject:** RE: Dalgety Bay  
Thanks for the heads up. I'll start talking to our people...  
Cheers

**From:** SEPA  
**Sent:** 08 November 2011 16:33  
**To:** HPA  
**Subject:** RE: Dalgety Bay

It isn't an open meeting, neither the press nor the public are invited to the actual meeting but we are thinking about holding a press conference after the meeting, just in the initial stages of thinking about that but we'll obviously need to input and support from partner agencies as well. In the past the press have turned up uninvited so we thought this might be a good way to handle the inevitable interest.

I

*Regards,*

██████████

**From:** HPA  
**Sent:** 08 November 2011 16:11  
**To:** SEPA  
**Subject:** RE: Dalgety Bay

:)

Grand thanks.

Two questions occur

- 1) Is it an open meeting ie will press be there/outside when it finishes?
- 2) Are you personally going?

Cheers

**From:** SEPA  
**Sent:** 08 November 2011 16:07  
**To:** HPA  
**Subject:** RE: Dalgety Bay

I meant that it was YOU that was on it and not that you (collectively) were on it lol! Just digging deeper ☐ . Here's our statement from this morning. The next big milestone is likely to be November 22, that is the next Dalgety Bay Forum and it's likely to be a significant meeting. We're planning to do some media activity around that so I'll keep you posted.

### **Further significant sources detected at Dalgety Bay**

**08 November 2011**  
**EXT01 – B04**

Officers from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) undertaking monitoring and recovery work at Dalgety Bay believe they have detected another source of significant radioactive content.

The source, or sources, appear to be buried at depth and will require a specialist team and equipment to remove them.

SEPA has advised the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of the find and has requested that the MoD support SEPA in recovering the source(s) so as to remove the significant hazard. If the sources were to be exposed through erosion and mobilisation over the winter period, they would pose a risk to the Dalgety Bay community.

Yesterday, SEPA met with officials from the MoD, the Scottish Government, the Food Standards Agency, Fife Council, the Health Protection Agency, NHS Fife and the local community at an interim meeting of the Dalgety Bay Forum. At this meeting SEPA presented the results of its most recent round of monitoring and particle retrieval work which concluded that "there appears to be a number of caches of contamination which could be managed to prevent their release into the environment."

A full meeting of the Dalgety Bay Forum is planned for November 22.

SEPA is keen that an appropriate long term remediation plan for Dalgety Bay is developed. However, in the absence of a suitable plan, SEPA may need to designate an area around the foreshore at Dalgety Bay as Radioactive Contaminated Land to ensure the public is suitably protected.

**Ends**

**Notes to editors:**

SEPA advises anyone using the beach not to remove any material from the beach and to wash their hands following their visit.

*Regards,*

██████████

**From:** HPA  
**Sent:** 08 November 2011 15:57  
**To:** SEPA  
**Subject:** RE: Dalgety Bay

Thanks. And as regards being on it... did you ever expect anything less? ;)

**From:** SEPA  
**Sent:** 08 November 2011 15:53  
**To:** HPA  
**Subject:** Re: Dalgety Bay

Yes, will do ██████████ and good to see you are on this. I'll send you the press release we issued this morning and will make sure you are sighted from now on.

Regards,

██████████

**From:** HPA  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 08, 2011 03:45 PM  
**To:** SEPA  
**Subject:** Dalgety Bay

Just so we're forewarned, next time you do anything on dalgety bay could you give me a heads up?  
Thanks

**From:** @nhs.net  
**To:** HPA  
**Date:** Fri, 11 Nov 2011 16:12:21 +0000  
**Subject:** RE: Dalgety Bay

Thanks [REDACTED]

**From:** HPA  
**Sent:** 11 November 2011 16:05  
**To:** NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND  
**Subject:** Dalgety Bay

Both,  
HPA is currently experiencing some dramatic IT problems so we're forced to resort to personal email contacts for today.

Just thought I'd give you an update on the situation in Dalgety Bay. Here's the quote we've supplied to the Sunday Herald.

If you need to speak to me my numbers are as usual [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Cheers

[REDACTED], Director of the HPA's Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards, said: "In light of recent finds at Dalgety Bay, the HPA has updated some aspects of the question and answer material produced for members of the public.

"The HPA continues to support SEPA's precautionary advice and the actions it has taken at Dalgety Bay. These steps will have reduced the risk of public exposure to radioactive material. The HPA has recommended to SEPA, as the regulatory authority, to commission a public health risk assessment.

"The HPA continues to advise, as it has done for some time, that members of the public using the area should not remove material from the beach. Anyone who has been handling any material while using this beach, should ensure that they wash their hands when they leave. This advice is flagged on signs posted at the beach.

"From the data seen so far HPA advice continues to be that the overall health risk is likely to be low. Whilst there is a risk of health effects if a radioactive object is swallowed, breathed in or is in prolonged contact with the skin, the chance of coming into contact with a radioactively contaminated object on the beach is small.

"Subject to any local restrictions in place, there is no reason for beach users to stop using the area. As a precaution parents may wish to consider stopping their children digging in the sand until more detailed monitoring has been carried out.

"The MOD has not been in touch with HPA about this health advice."

**From:** HPA  
**Sent:** 13 October 2011 14:20  
**To:** SEPA  
**Subject:** RE: Dalgety Bay  
Thanks!

**From:** SEPA  
**Sent:** 13 October 2011 14:07  
**To:** HPA  
**Subject:** Dalgety Bay

*Regards,*

