



8 March 2023

INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE 23-009

Thank you for your information request, received on 1 March 2023. You asked the London Legacy Development Corporation (Legacy Corporation) to provide the following information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR):

“I am writing to you because we are deeply concerned about the fumes and smells coming out from the excavations in Wickside in the Galliard homes site. We would greatly appreciate information on the type of existing pollution, levels and soil treatment methods as well as monitoring strategy during the excavations to reassure us that these substances or their treatment are not harmful for our health or the health of the most vulnerable like children passing by that site to get to a nearby school.

We would also like to get the same information about the future excavation works happening in the rest of that area. I am the vice chair of Fish Island Village Residents' Association and I am aware that local residents would appreciate clarity on these very serious matters.

Thank you very much in advance for your help, if necessary we can arrange a meeting to clarify all this.”

I can confirm that the Legacy Corporation holds information which falls within the scope of your request. Please see the Remediation Strategy for the Wickside redevelopment attached in **Annex A**. Please also see an update from the Legacy Corporation case officer on the latest in respect of our investigation of the complaints received regarding fumes and smells from the works at the site. Please be advised that information in the report has been redacted under FOIA section 40 – personal information.

Section 40(2) –personal information

*(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if –
(a) it constitutes personal data which does not fall within subsection (1), and
(b) the first, second or third condition below is satisfied.*

It is the standard practice of the Legacy Corporation to redact personal information for those members of staff under Head of Service level, and for non-Legacy Corporation personnel unless consent to release the information has been received.

The section 40 exemption is absolute and is not subject to the public interest test.

In this instance, the relevant condition that applies is section 40(2) whereby the information is defined as personal data within s.3(2) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

I can confirm that the Legacy Corporation's environmental consultants have been regularly visiting the site and meeting with the developer since Monday 6th February to ensure that the works to excavate the contaminated soil are being carried out in accordance with the approved Remediation Strategy, and that emissions are within acceptable tolerances. Our Environmental consultants have reported that the excavation works were observed to be carried out in accordance with the approved remediation strategy, and that the emissions are within acceptable tolerances.

We have also been liaising with the LB Tower Hamlets Environmental Health officer, who informed us that he has also visited the site and observed that the site appeared to be following the required mitigation measures.

Our Environmental consultant last visited the site on 3rd March and has confirmed that the removal of contaminated material at the eastern end of the site was completed on 24th February. The permeable reactive barrier has been installed around the edge of the eastern excavation, and the gas protection membrane has been installed.

There will be basement excavation at the western (Wansbeck Road end) of the Wickside site. The site investigations for the western part of the site identify that there is not expected to be any high levels of odour or harmful gases on the remainder of the site, which will continue to be monitored for air quality in accordance with the remediation strategy. The programme is that there will be excavation works during March and April, with piling works commencing in May, and the remainder of the basement dig to be carried out during July – September.

Regarding your request in relation to information about start of future excavation works on sites in Hackney Wick/Fish Island with planning permission for redevelopment, we do not hold this specific information. However, all sites with planning permission for redevelopment are required by condition to have a Remediation Strategy approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of excavation works and in addition we encourage all developers to inform local residents when such works are due to commence and provide contact details for any comments or complaints regarding such works.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request and wish to make a request for an internal review of our response, you should write to:

Deputy Chief Executive
London Legacy Development Corporation
Level 9
5 Endeavour Square
Stratford
E20 1JN

Email: FOI@londonlegacy.co.uk

Please note: requests for internal reviews received more than forty working days after the initial response will not be handled.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may appeal directly to the Information Commissioner at the address given below. You should do this within two months of our final decision. There is no charge for making an appeal.

Further information on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is available from the Information Commissioner's Office:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Telephone 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45

Website www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

FOI / EIR Co-ordinator
London Legacy Development Corporation