



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Freedom of Information

2022102127000047

- Complaint received on 3/10/2022.

“I am writing to complain about the ongoing stench affecting Knockintorran and originating from the fish processing plant on the local machair.

We were advised this plant would not operate until new equipment was in situ to stop the stench. This is not the case as the factory is operational and we are regularly unable to open windows and doors for the stench of rotten fish blowing on the wind. This has been going on for years and is obviously not resolved. The issue continues to affect residents on the west side of Uist and must have health implications for the local population as well as being detrimental to our ability to live normal and healthy outdoor lives.

The factory operates day and night over 7 days so there is no let up from this intrusion.

Please can you advise why this is being allowed to continue and what is being done about resolving this ongoing environmental health issue for local residents?”

- Complaint received on the 19 October 2022

On Sunday 16 October my husband and I took a walk on North Uist. We parked on the coast, just past the Tractor Shed Camping Huts & Bunkhouse (off the A865). As soon as we got out of the car there we could smell something foul, clearly death and decay, and it became worse as we walked along the beach. We eventually realised the smell was coming from the Whiteshore Cockles processing facility. By the time we were alongside it the stench was almost unbearable.

On returning home I found various articles on the Web, saying that the practice of burying dead salmon in the dunes and covering them with seaweed has been illegal since 2016, but Whiteshore Cockles were continuing to do this. There was an expectation that they would cease by March 2022. However, they are obviously still continuing to do it - judging by the recent tyre marks in the sand, even on a Sunday. Can you tell me if you are content to allow the foul smells to continue, or when you expect them to cease. We will not visit that beach again until the stench has gone, and I feel very sorry for the residents and holiday-makers in the Paible area”

The CneS response was :

“Thank you for raising your concerns. We are aware of the issues with the site and are somewhat restricted in any action we can take as the Scottish Government



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granted its authority to allow the burial of fish morts to continue, on this site, on condition that burial would end when a fish waste processing facility, planned for the site was granted a PPC permit from SEPA.

This derogation prevents the Comhairle considering the activities of the site under animal by-product regulations and restricts its ability to investigate smell complaints associated with the activity.

If you have any queries regarding the derogation, then they are best directed to the Scottish Government (Animal Health and Welfare Division). “

Both complaints were copied to the Scottish Government.