

FOI Reference Number: FOI/240/1819

Date: 14 August 2018

**Request:**

The stability of tips adjacent to the railway is a material consideration for Network Rail, such tips may also pose a risk from the effects of spontaneous combustion and from the effects of uncontrolled surface water runoff.

As a consequence of the Hatfield Colliery incident in 2013 and subsequent incidents in proximity to track, a project has been initiated to identify all colliery tips in proximity to our infrastructure. The project will determine how they are being managed to ensure they are kept stable and risks controlled. Network rail is of the opinion that it falls to local authorities to satisfy themselves that tips in their area are stable and to intervene in the event that the owner fails to keep them stable. Network Rail is interested to know if you have any records of such tips within your administrative boundary. And if so, please can you provide a commentary on how you are discharging your responsibilities in this regard and any evidence you hold to demonstrate the stability of the tips near the railway.

**Response:**

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received on 10 August 2018.

Please find below Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's response to the information you requested in relation to tips adjacent to railway networks.

*MEA do not have any facilities which meet this criteria.*

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Chief Executive at the Braid Ballymena Town Hall, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ.

Please remember to quote the reference number FOI/240/1819 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at <https://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/>.

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.