

This FOI is in connection with a recent approval of a 49.9 MW battery installation at Burwell (East Cambridgeshire District Council planning reference 17_02205). I understand that a concern had been raised by the Environment Agency regarding a secondary containment system to ensure that, in the event of a fire at this facility, the firewater would not contaminate the surrounding environment.

As you are aware, Lithium ion battery fires are a well-known, and well documented hazard.

Following various exchanges, it seems that this condition was discharged and ECDC subsequently approved the battery installation in the form as proposed by the developer. Please can you tell me:

- 1) What specific fire prevention measures provided by the applicant and/or their representatives gave ECDC sufficient re-assurance that a battery fire would be unlikely to happen?
- 2) What specific details provided by the applicant and/or their representatives gave ECDC sufficient re-assurance that if a battery fire was to occur, any hazards arising from this would be minimised (in terms of toxic gas emissions, explosions and also contamination of the surrounding area)?
- 3) What specific details provided by the applicant and/or their representatives resulted in ECDC considering it appropriate to discharge the condition that a secondary containment system was needed? i.e. What provided the re-assurance that a fire incident would be contained and that a secondary firewater containment system was not necessary after all?
- 4) Who reviewed this information on behalf of ECDC (i.e. what is the job title/position of the member/s of staff who reviewed this information)?
- 5) What qualifications does the member/s of staff at ECDC who reviewed this information hold?
- 6) How much experience/ expertise in lithium ion battery installations does this member of staff have?
- 7) Has ECDC had further input into the fire safety management plan for this (now approved) battery facility?