

Stephanie Trotter
Via email
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29/07/2020

Full disclosure

Dear Stephanie

Freedom of Information Request Reference No: 202007231

Thank you for your request for information about:

1. Has the HSE recently considered whether or not the gas emergency services could or should test gas appliances for CO?
2. If so, who was involved in these discussions and what conclusions did HSE reach?
3. If no, why hasn't HSE considered whether or not the gas emergency services could or should test gas appliances for CO?
4. Has the HSE discussed with Ofgem using GD2 funding to help the gas emergency services test gas appliances for CO?
5. If no, what plans are there if any, to have such a discussion?
6. If there are no plans for such a discussion, why is this?
7. If yes, what discussions have taken place?
8. Finally, would HSE consider or support a project or trial of the gas emergency service testing gas appliances for CO or undertaking a sweep test after relighting the gas appliances?

Your request was received on 02/06/2020 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

In response to each of your questions, the Health and Safety Executive can disclose the following information:

1. **Has the HSE recently considered whether or not the gas emergency services could or should test gas appliances for CO?**

No.

2. **If so, who was involved in these discussions and what conclusions did HSE reach?**

Not applicable given the response to question 1 above.

3. If no, why hasn't HSE considered whether or not the gas emergency services could or should test gas appliances for CO?

Gas emergency service providers already have effective policies and procedures in place to cover their response to emergency callouts, and personnel are equipped with monitors (some personal, others atmospheric) that will alert if certain atmospheric gases, including CO, are detected over a certain level.

Further, gas related fatalities, including those from CO, have fallen significantly over the past few decades.

Given this, HSE does not believe the gas emergency services should test gas appliances for CO.

4. Has the HSE discussed with Ofgem using GD2 funding to help the gas emergency services test gas appliances for CO?

No - GD2 funding is a matter for Ofgem and the Gas Distribution Networks (GDNs).

5. If no, what plans are there if any, to have such a discussion?

HSE has no plans to hold such a discussion.

6. If there are no plans for such a discussion, why is this?

As stated in the response to question 4, GD2 funding is a matter for Ofgem and the GDNs.

7. If yes, what discussions have taken place?

Not applicable, given the responses to questions 4, 5 and 6.

8. Finally, would HSE consider or support a project or trial of the gas emergency service testing gas appliances for CO or undertaking a sweep test after relighting the gas appliances?

This is not something HSE has considered, and without knowing the detail of what is proposed HSE is unable to comment.

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If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the decisions made by HSE you may ask for an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to me.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700 Fax: 01625 524510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>

Yours sincerely

Lisa Robinson

HSE, Engagement & Policy Division - Manufacturing & Utilities Unit,
www.hse.gov.uk/