Senior Investigations Officer Environmental Standards Scotland Irean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba



| By e-mail: | |
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15 January 2025

Case Reference IESS.24.071 – Chemical Spraying from Aircraft – Decision Letter

Dear ,

Thank you for submitting your representation to Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS). From what you have told us, it would appear that your concerns relate to the results of rainwater home testing that you have conducted, which you say show high levels of aluminium. It appears to be your position that these levels have occurred as a result of geoengineering activities¹ by commercial aircraft.

In your representation form you have asked for confirmation of the most appropriate regulatory body to deal with your concerns, and whether the Scottish Government is obliged to meet with members of the public to view information or evidence they have, and to discuss their concerns.

It may be helpful if at this point I explain the role of ESS. ESS is an independent environmental oversight body set up to consider public bodies' compliance with, and the effectiveness of, environmental law. Accordingly, when we receive a representation, our first steps are to confirm whether the concerns raised fall within our remit, and to consider whether the case would be appropriate for investigation. The issues ESS can investigate must relate to either:

¹ Geoengineering activities are large-scale interventions used to deliberately control or manage environmental systems.

- Whether a Scottish public authority is failing (or has failed) to comply with environmental law
- The effectiveness of environmental law, and how it is being (or has been) implemented or applied in Scotland

While your representation concerns the protection of the environment, you have not identified any environmental law/s that are not being complied with by a Scottish public authority, or any law/s which could be made more effective. You have also not provided any evidence that the elevated aluminium levels are due to geoengineering activities by commercial aircraft. From what you have submitted to us I note that, in this connection, both the UK and Scottish Governments and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) all maintain that this practice is not occurring within the UK. In the absence of any reference to a relevant environmental law, or any evidence that this practice is being undertaken, ESS is unable to take any action.

In terms of the outcomes you seek, I must also inform you that it is not ESS' role to take a view on whether the Scottish Government is obliged to meet with you and note that the relevant oversight body (the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman) has already provided you with its position on this.

For the above reasons, no further action will be taken by ESS in respect of your representation. I appreciate you may find this response disappointing, but I hope my explanation reassures you that we have fully considered the concerns you have brought to us. If there is anything in this letter you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Senior Investigations Officer