

Iken Waste Investigation - Community Update 4

November 2021

Purpose of this briefing

This is the fourth of our bi-monthly Community Updates for the waste investigation that we are currently undertaking in Iken, Suffolk.

Our aim is to keep you as informed as possible but because we are working on a live criminal investigation, there are details that we cannot share. Our first priority is to protect the integrity of the investigation and we cannot release any details that would undermine or prejudice the case. This includes what sites or locations we are investigating.

We apologise that this update is delayed, we wanted to ensure that we could share the positive news below:

What we are doing

Since our last update we have undertaken enforcement action, at a level appropriate to the criminality, with several separate entities: we issued warning letters to several entities as a result of evidence collected in our interviews under caution. This is in line with our enforcement and sanctions policy which is publically available on [.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), section 7.12 Warnings. This is a great achievement and step forward in the investigation. Unfortunately we cannot share further details of this action with you as to do so may undermine the case.

Our next step is to consider the evidence to determine what legal action we will be taking with other corporate entities that we have interviewed (or who may be interviewed as a result of other evidence that we collect). As we have already outlined we are bound by law to follow up any new lines of enquiry which come to light.

As previously explained in Community Briefing 1 (March 2021) we cannot give a deadline for the completion of the investigation but we can assure you that we are doing all we can to expedite the matter - whilst ensuring that the investigation is thorough and conscientious.

It is extremely important to ensure that this legal process is undertaken well and within the legislation that, as environmental regulators, we are bound to follow and respect.

We continue to give this investigation the priority it deserves and we track the progress of the investigation through regular operational reviews. This way we can ensure that we protect and improve your local environment that is so important to us all; and our health and well-being.

Keeping you updated

We will continue to address any individual queries received via this regular update. This will help ensure that our resource is focussed on progressing the investigative work.

Please do share this update with others in your community.

If this has been forwarded to you, and you would like your email addresses added to our send list, please let us know via AreaManagerCorrespondence.EastAnglia@environment-agency.gov.uk

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88