

Hackney Environment Directorate

Jim Paterson, Assistant Director (Environment), Dorothy Hodgkin House, 12 Reading Lane, London E8 1HJ

Phone: 020 8356 4827
Fax: 020 8356 4980
E-mail: Donal.fitzgibbon@hackney.gov.uk

Our ref: ED/PCO/DF
Your ref: N/A
Date: 09 November 2004

Findings of final sampling at Spring Lane Allotment

Dear Allotment Holder,

The Council has completed the additional sampling of Spring Lane allotment. Eight additional samples were collected and analysed for lead and arsenic, the contaminants of primary concern. The purpose of this additional sampling was to determine whether the two exceedences detected during the initial site investigation were outliers or indicated more widespread contamination.

In accordance with CLR 7, Assessment of risks to human health from land contamination: an overview of the development of guideline values and related research, published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency the results were statistically analysed to determine the potential risks to human health.

The results of the statistical analysis were 11mg/kg for arsenic and 263mg/kg for lead are below the Soil Guidance Values of 20mg/kg and 450mg/kg for arsenic and lead respectively. Therefore Spring Lane allotment does not pose a potential risk to human health.

Statistical analysis indicates that the two exceedences detected during the initial round of sampling were anomalies, and are not representative of the general site concentrations of lead and arsenic.

The council is confident that the site does not pose a risk to human health and that the site can be continued to be used and enjoyed as an allotment.

The Council is confident that the site does not pose a risk to human health and that the site can be continued to be used and enjoyed as an allotment. As promised at the recent public meeting on this issue, I would like to repeat the Council's commitment to retaining and supporting allotments in the borough and to confirm that the Council has no other plans for any allotment sites.

I am sorry if the initial assessment of the potential risk on this allotment may have caused you concern, but the Council has a duty to take any potential risks to public health very seriously and to be as open and transparent as possible with residents of the borough.

If you require any further information, or require further clarification about this letter please do not hesitate to contact me at 020 8356 4827, and I will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Donal Fitzgibbon
Contaminated Land Officer
Environment Division