

JG Pears FAQ

What does the site do?

JG Pears Ltd operate a rendering facility to process Category 3 animal by-products. This material is considered low risk under the Animal By-Product Regulations. The facility processes this material through cooking, drying and milling to produce animal feed, oils (tallow) and liquid agricultural fertilizer.

What is the Environment Agency's role in regulating JG Pears?

The site is permitted by the Environment Agency to allow it to operate under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016.

As the environmental regulator for the site, we check compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Permit and where appropriate take enforcement action for breaches of that permit.

What is the Environment Agency doing to regulate odour from JG Pears?

Odour is regulated through the site's Environmental Permit, which requires the operator to use appropriate measures to prevent or minimise odour.

As the environmental regulator, we audit the site and the operator's odour management plan.

If we find that Pears are not operating in accordance with their plan, or their plan is inadequate, we will require them to put in place an improvement plan. If they have breached the conditions in their environmental permit then we will take appropriate enforcement action.

What do you mean by appropriate enforcement action?

We will act proportionately when we apply the law. We will take account of and balance the:

- risk posed to people and the environment
- seriousness of the breach of the law
- impact on the environment, people and legitimate business
- cost of taking enforcement action against the benefit of taking it
- impact on economic growth

Our staff will use their professional judgement and discretion, taking account of many factors, such as the:

- scale of environmental impact
- attitude and actions of individuals and managers of businesses
- history of previous breaches and/or offences

We aim to make sure our enforcement response is proportionate and appropriate to each situation. Our first response is usually to give advice and guidance or issue a warning to bring an offender into compliance where possible.

We will normally consider all other options before considering criminal proceedings. Generally, prosecution is our last resort.

Not all breaches are an offence. The legislation specifies whether a breach is an offence or not. This may limit what we can do about a breach.

What is a 'warning'?

We can issue a written warning if we believe an individual or business has committed an offence. This will set out:

- the offence we believe has been committed
- the action(s) we expect to be taken by when
- what will happen if action is not taken

We can do one of the following:

- send a warning letter
- issue a site warning, normally as a result of a compliance visit at a site with an environmental permit

The warning will be kept on record. Any continued or further breach may influence our later choice of enforcement action.

What is the consequence of permit non-compliance scores or 'breaches' on the Compliance Assessment Reports?

As described above, we take into account the history of permit breaches and previous offences as factors, which inform our decision on the appropriate enforcement response.

Permit breaches will also affect the fees and charges, which a company pay to the Environment Agency. Under the Polluter Pays principle, an operator who is not complying with their environmental permit will require more regulatory effort and therefore will have to pay higher charges.

How can I report any odour or noise incidents?

Any occurrences of odour can be reported to the Environment Agency on our free phone incident hotline 0800 80 70 60.

We strongly encourage you to contact JG Pears directly at lmcorrespondence@jgpears.com. This will give them the opportunity to investigate reports without delay and implement solutions if they do find problems.

I reported an odour complaint to the Environment Agency but have received no feedback. Why?

When we receive a report from members of the public to our incident hotline number, we always use the information supplied to us to gain a better understanding of the odour characterisation and potential sources on site. However, responding individually to all requests for feedback is a significant draw on our resource, which we would preferably use to focus on the regulatory actions. To ensure you are kept up to date with the latest information and progress, we will be updating you through community newsletters, regular updates and liaison with the Parish council and your local Member of Parliament, Robert Jenrick MP.

Should you require any further information, then please contact EMDenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk referencing JG Pears and they will ensure your concerns are passed to a relevant officer as soon as they are available.

What is being done to address concerns that the smell is affecting my health?

Some of the reports the Environment Agency have received have identified a health concern. We

have, therefore been liaising with our partners at Public Health England and the Environmental Health Team at Bassetlaw District Council. Public Health England has provided the following statement:

“Public Health England is providing specialist advice to the Environment Agency whilst the Environment Agency investigate residents’ concerns regarding odour in the vicinity of JG Pears. The Environment Agency is monitoring the situation and gathering information and we will keep public health advice under review as the investigation progresses. However, it is known that generally the human nose is very sensitive to odours. Some people may experience symptoms such as nausea, headaches or dizziness, as a reaction to odours even when the substances that cause those smells are themselves not harmful to health in the long term. Many substances that are perceived by the human nose as strongly odorous are usually present at levels below that which could cause a direct toxicological effect.

Those who suffer from existing medical conditions, such as asthma, and feel like their symptoms are worsening when the odour is particularly strong, are advised to ensure they take any prescribed medication as normal and keep it to hand. If you are still concerned about the effects of on your health, please telephone or visit your GP to discuss further, taking this leaflet with you. You can also phone NHS 111 for advice.

We continue to work closely with the Environment Agency, and the local authority, and will keep our public health advice under review as the investigation progresses”

The Environment Agency will continue to take specialist advice from Public Health England to ensure our actions to minimise odour emissions and fumes from this site are consistent and appropriate.

Who is responsible for odour complaints relating to the condition of lorries and the route they take?

The Animal and Plant Health Agency is responsible for the regulation of transporting Animal-By Products and vehicle hygiene and storage. If you wish to log a complaint or concern please send an email to csconehealthabp@apha.gsi.gov.uk.

Do Bassetlaw District Council still have any responsibilities regarding the JG Pears plant?

Bassetlaw DC would only have responsibility for any matters that fall outside of the Environmental Permit, and within the scope of the Council’s statutory responsibilities. For general enquiries please call 01909 533533.