

## **VIS: Operational Training – Intermediate Level (L2)**

The eu-LISA Development Training Programme for VIS IT Operators was successfully launched in 2017 with a training course for Entry Level (L1) participants. The follow-up course entitled 'VIS: Operational Training – Intermediate Level (L2)' took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

The objective of the training was to provide reminders and updates of the VIS system's operational activities as well as its communication means and IT Service Management tools. The following topics were covered during the training session: 

In addition, the course included a hands-on exercise with the Service Manager 9 software (custom developed by eu-LISA) on Incident Management and Standard Requests.

Nine participants from eight different Member States took part in the training, including VIS Newcomer countries Bulgaria and Romania, held in eu-LISA's offices in Strasbourg, France. The course satisfaction rate was 85% with an average score given by participants of 4.24 on a scale from 1 to 5 (1-lowest, 5-highest). At the end of the training session, following a test on the course material, three participants were awarded the eu-LISA certificate "VIS Professional". One of the recipients said 'I really liked that the course was technical. On top of that, we had open discussions with the trainers and many matters were clarified in addition to those in the course curriculum.'

The Development Training Programme for VIS IT Operators will continue with an Advanced Level (L3) course which will take place on 21-22 March 2018.

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## **Government response: Update on disposal of dredged material at Sprey Point, Devon**

The MMO granted a marine licence to Exmouth Marina in August 2017 for maintenance dredging of Exmouth Marina and disposal of materials at the Sprey Point disposal site. The dredging is due to take place in February 2018.

Information about the marine activities and licence documents are available online via the [MMO's public register](#) (case reference MLA/2016/00372). The MMO is in the process of updating this with additional information requested by

local residents.

## **Consultation on licence application**

A public consultation on the application was held in November 2016. As part of this process views were also sought from the local planning and harbour authority which covers the marina, and the MMO's primary advisors including Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Crown Estate and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science. Trinity House were also consulted on navigational issues.

We resolved issues raised as part of the consultation process.

The [public consultation process](#) for marine licence applications is explained in further detail on the MMO's blog.

## **Managing adverse impact on the marine area**

The MMO is aware of the local concern about the potential impact on the marine environment after a pollution incident occurred following previous disposal activity in 2012, although there is no evidence which directly links the two events. Following full consideration of all information, including the responses from our primary and scientific advisors, we have applied additional licence conditions, in particular regarding tide working and seasonality to mitigate the risk of any material being washed ashore and impacting on bathing water quality.

Potential contamination arising as a result of the disposal activity was also addressed as part of the application process. The assessment, which was carried out in line with the OSPAR Guidelines, has shown that the material is suitable for disposal at sea.

The MMO's coastal office will monitor and inspect the activity as appropriate to ensure that the licence conditions are adhered to and will work with other relevant agencies to look at any further concerns.

## **Disposal sites**

It is up to applicants to nominate the disposal site as part of their marine licence application. The MMO then makes a decision based on the suitability of the material.

Where a marine licensable process involves any waste management activity then the provisions of the Waste Hierarchy of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) (Directive 2008/98/EC) directive have to be considered. Applicants are required to submit evidence that they have considered alternatives to disposal under all aspects of the Waste Hierarchy (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle, Recovery, and Disposal). However the MMO accepts that in some cases disposal at sea is appropriate.

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## **Press release: PM Statement on the election of the new President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa**

The Prime Minister said:

My warm congratulations to President Ramaphosa on his election by Parliament today.

The United Kingdom greatly values its dynamic and forward-looking partnership with South Africa, underpinned by the strong people-to-people and business ties between our countries. I look forward to working closely with President Ramaphosa to help build a healthier, more secure and prosperous future for both our countries.

I very much hope to see the President at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London in April.

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## **Pressemitteilung: Prüfer rufen zu stärkerer Rechenschaftspflicht in Bezug auf die EU-Finanzen auf**

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