

City of Edinburgh Council

SRU V8.9.x.0

REPORT PREPARED ON 11/ 5/26 AT 14:37

Request reference number: 958044

DATES

DATE RECEIVED: 17/02/2025 TIME: 10.42  
DATE OF FIRST RESPONSE: 20/02/2025 TIME: 16.54  
DATE CLOSED: 18/03/2026  
TARGET RESPONSE DATE: 24/02/2025

NAME OF PERSON COMPLAINED AGAINST

Bonfire

ADDRESS COMPLAINED AGAINST

Waterfront Avenue  
Edinburgh

FULL DETAILS OF CLIENT

CLIENT UPRN/USRN: 906496362  
CLIENT EASTING: 323036  
CLIENT NORTHING: 677168  
CLIENT LPIKEY: 9064L000381958  
WARD: 04 - Forth  
HOW RECEIVED: 8 - EMail  
DATE SERVICE REQUEST RECEIVED : 17/02/2025

DETAILS OF SERVICE REQUEST

Fires on wasteland in front of Waterfront Avenue

COMPLAINT CATEGORY: E20 - BONFIRE COMPLAINT  
COMPLAINT TYPE: COM - COMPLAINT  
COUNTRY OF TRADE: GB - Invalid code  
UNIT: PEP - Environmental Protection  
INVESTIGATING OFFICER:  
RECEIVING OFFICER:

City of Edinburgh Council

SRU V8.9.x.0

REPORT PREPARED ON 11/ 5/26 AT 14:39

NAME AND ADDRESS DETAILS

Bonfire

ADDRESS: Waterfront Avenue  
Edinburgh

ACTION DETAILS

ACTION TYPE: AAA - Action taken  
SOURCE DATABASE: REQUESTS  
Record number 958044  
UNIT: PEP - Environmental Protection  
INVESTIGATING OFFICER: [REDACTED]

DATE ACTION OPENED: 17/02/2025  
DATE ACTION CLOSED: 18/03/2026

ACTION EVENT DETAILS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SCH. DATE</u>	<u>ACT. DATE</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
1	G05	Email received		17/02/2025	NEB	

I would like to complain about fly tipping and fires on the wasteland in front of my property -  
19 Waterfront Avenue EH5 1RT

This is happening on a very regular basis at least twice a week. Large fires with very black toxic smoke.

I understand that the land is owned by the Scottish Government and this needs addressing urgently:

A number of residents here have complained on numerous occasions and to no avail.

This needs urgent attention and action! Please reply with steps being taken.

Yours sincerely  
[REDACTED]

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SCH. DATE</u>	<u>ACT. DATE</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
2	G05	Email received		19/02/2025	NEB	
3	G10	Email sent to client to advise From: [REDACTED] Sent: 20 February 2025 16:54 To: [REDACTED] Subject: RE: Complaint Dark Smoke Burning - Statutory Nuisance and Offence Under Clean Air Act 1993 - Scottish Government Site Waterfront EHS 1RT		20/02/2025	CDE	

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your email regarding fires at Waterfront Avenue.

We received a call from a concerned member of the public on Sunday afternoon about a fire. Our Standby Officer attended onsite and did request that the fire be extinguished. When the request was not complied with, the officer contacted the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for their attendance.

City of Edinburgh Council are currently in discussion with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Police Scotland about how to resolve this problem, and we have contacted the Scottish Government who own the site to ask what action they are taking.

In the meantime, please report any further fires to the Council (0131 608 1100 during office hours, and 0131 200 2000 at the weekend), and advise the Fire and Rescue Service.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

4	G05	Email received from client. From: [REDACTED] Sent: 21 February 2025 11:32 To: [REDACTED] Subject: Re: Complaint Dark Smoke Burning - Statutory Nuisance and Offence Under Clean Air Act 1993 - Scottish Government Site Waterfront EHS 1RT		21/02/2025	CDE	
---	-----	--	--	------------	-----	--

[REDACTED] Thankyou for your response and insight. I look forward to update in the near future. Can you also confirm that yo??

External email

[REDACTED]  
Thankyou for your response and insight. I look forward to update in the near future.

ITEM EVENT DESCRIPTION SCH. DATE ACT. DATE OFF ACTIVITY

Can you also confirm that you acknowledge my formal complaint under environmental and clean air legislation, as per Council guidance, and advise me as to what the next steps will be to address that complaint?

Regards

[Redacted]

5 G10 Email sent to Street Enforcement asking them to advise client. 21/02/2025 CDE

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: 21 February 2025 15:18  
To: Street Enforcement <StreetEnforcement@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
Subject: FW: Complaint Dark Smoke Burning - Statutory Nuisance and Offence Under Clean Air Act 1993 - Scottish Government Site Waterfront EH5 1RT

Good afternoon,

Please see below for an email trail for a resident affected by burning of waste on a site off Waterfront Avenue. There are two camps there: a traveller site and a migrant workers's site.

Our service is looking at it from a point of view of the Clean Air Act legislation and possible Statutory Nuisance; however for both pieces of legislation, we need the names of the responsible persons, which has proved hard to get (see APP 957993 for our visit to the site at the weekend).

The below resident, [Redacted] is very clearly asking questions in relation to the LA's responsibility on improper disposal of waste (section 33 and 34 of the EPA). Could you advise him and investigate?

NB: The owners of the land are the Scottish Government, whom we have initiated correspondence with, and there is extensive history of this site with Police, Fire and Rescue, and the North West locality liaising.

Many thanks

[Redacted]

6 G10 Email sent to client to advise 25/02/2025 CDE

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: 25 February 2025 16:21  
To: [Redacted]  
Subject: RE: Complaint Dark Smoke Burning - Statutory Nuisance and Offence Under Clean Air Act 1993 - Scottish Government Site Waterfront EH5 1RT

Good afternoon [Redacted]

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

I can confirm we have an open case for you - the reference is APP no. 958044. Some of your complaint queried waste responsibilities under the Environmental Protection Act. That part of the legislation is enforced by colleagues in Street Enforcement, so I have contacted that service and asked them to respond to you directly.

The main next steps will be gathering evidence in relation to the activities and determining the individuals responsible. This proved difficult on Sunday 16th February, so if we receive further calls about fires we will be looking for Police assistance if we attend onsite. Our Enforcement powers allow for us to report an offence to the Procurator Fiscal, so getting accurate information and building up an independent assessment of the issue is important. We are in discussions with colleagues in Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service about the situation, and as previously mentioned, the owners of the land (Scottish Government) have been informed about the recent fire.

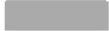
Many thanks



7	G05	Email received from client		26/02/2025		CDE
		From: [REDACTED]				
		Sent: 26 February 2025 10:12				
		To: [REDACTED]				
		Subject: Re: Complaint Dark Smoke Burning - Statutory Nuisance and Offence Under Clean Air Act 1993 - Scottish Government Site Waterfront BHS IRT				

[REDACTED] Thanks very much for the helpful update. Look forward to future updates. regards Colin On 25 Feb 2025, at 16:21, ??

External email



Thanks very much for the helpful update.

Look forward to future updates.

regards



8	G05	Email received		05/03/2025	05/03/2025	CDE
9	G33	Case Conference with [REDACTED]		05/03/2025		CDE

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

Street Enforcement - preparing response to client.

10	G10	Email sent to client to advise		06/03/2025	CDE	
----	-----	--------------------------------	--	------------	-----	--

From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 06 March 2025 16:09  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: RE: Complaint APP 958044 Re: Scottish Government Site Waterfront EH5 1RT

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

I've spoken to Street Enforcement and been advised you should hear from them shortly.

I had a meeting with Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, and SEPA last week to discuss the issues and what actions are available to the services. There was also a meeting between Police Scotland and Ben McPherson MSP arranged for the start of this week, which the land owners, the Scottish Government were invited to. I'll ensure that the other agencies are aware of the fire on the night of the 2 March as well.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

11	G05	Email received from client.		07/03/2025	CDE	
----	-----	-----------------------------	--	------------	-----	--

From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 07 March 2025 11:13  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: Re: Complaint APP 958044 Re: Scottish Government Site Waterfront EH5 1RT

[REDACTED] Thanks for the update and look forward to hearing the feedback, action and any outcomes from the two meetings. Re??

External email

[REDACTED]

Thanks for the update and look forward to hearing the feedback, action and any outcomes from the two meetings.

Regards

[REDACTED]

12	G05	Email received		11/03/2025	AOL	
----	-----	----------------	--	------------	-----	--

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 March 2025 10:23  
To: Environmental Health <EnvironmentalHealth@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
Subject: Complaint APP 958044

I would like to report another industrial fire on Waterfront Avenue site of Scottish Government. Fire consisting of industrial waste including tyres and other toxic materials both metal and plastic.

[REDACTED]

13	G05	Email received from client - bonfire on morning of 11th March (reported in afternoon). From: [REDACTED] Sent: 11 March 2025 16:30 To: [REDACTED] Subject: Re: Complaint APP 958044 Re: Scottish Government Site Waterfront EH5 1RT		11/03/2025	CDE	
----	-----	--	--	------------	-----	--

[REDACTED] Just to let you know that there was another fire this morning starting at around 10.15. It consisted of toxic mat??

External email

[REDACTED]

Just to let you know that there was another fire this morning starting at around 10.15. It consisted of toxic materials such as tyres and metal waste and I called fire service at 10.24. Unfortunately I had to leave and cannot say how long it burnt for.

Regards

[REDACTED]

14	G10	Email sent to Police / SFRS etc From: [REDACTED] Sent: 13 March 2025 08:26 To: [REDACTED]		13/03/2025	CDE	
----	-----	--	--	------------	-----	--

Subject: RE: Fires - Granton [OFFICIAL]

Good morning,

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SCH. DATE</u>	<u>ACT. DATE</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
-------------	--------------	--------------------	------------------	------------------	------------	-----------------

The resident emailed me to advise that on the morning of 11th March there was another fire:

Just to let you know that there was another fire this morning starting at around 10.15. It consisted of toxic materials such as tyres and metal waste and I called fire service at 10.24. Unfortunately I had to leave and cannot say how long it burnt for.

The resident emailed at 16.30 hours about this so we didn't attend. Did SFRS attend or were any other calls recorded?

Many thanks

[Redacted]

15	G05	Email received from SEPA - they had no calls. From: [Redacted] Sent: 13 March 2025 10:10 To: [Redacted]		13/03/2025	CDE	
----	-----	--	--	------------	-----	--

Subject: RE: Fires - Granton [OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL We didn't receive report of that instance so unfortunately no, SEPA didn't substantiate. Thanks for keeping us ??

External email

OFFICIAL

We didn't receive report of that instance so unfortunately no, SEPA didn't substantiate.

Thanks for keeping us up to date on any reports you receive.

Best wishes,

[Redacted]

16	G05	Email received		17/03/2025	AOL	
----	-----	----------------	--	------------	-----	--

17	G05	Email received from client From: [Redacted] Sent: 17 March 2025 11:43 To: [Redacted] Cc: Information Rights <InformationRights@edinburgh.gov.uk> Subject: Complaint APP 958044 Re: Scottish Government Site Waterfront		19/03/2025	CDE	
----	-----	---	--	------------	-----	--

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SCH. DATE</u>	<u>ACT. DATE</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
-------------	--------------	--------------------	------------------	------------------	------------	-----------------

EHS 1RT

I would like you to be aware of a further significant fire that was burning for over 2 hours on Saturday 15 March???  
External email

First time sender

I would like you to be aware of a further significant fire that was burning for over 2 hours on Saturday 15 March around 22.00. See photo attached. The scale and size of the fire is evident from the van which is the vehicle that does most of the dumping of the industrial waste.

Again it was industrial waste which was being assembled through the day and even though it was night dark fumes were clearly visible.

I called and emailed environmental health but clearly at that time of day and at a weekend there is no council staff present and the fire service again whilst claiming to have visited the fire once again took no action as it "was a controlled fire under supervision".

Im looking forward to updates from the ongoing meetings and the outcome of my complaint and associated investigations..

I would also like to ask the following questions please (under a Freedom of Information Request hence the cc for formalisation). The questions in the main are per the Scottish Government Guidance for Local Authorities on Managing Unauthorised Camping 2017:

- Has the site been visited by a Council Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer at all?
- If yes have they advised those present of their responsibilities under the guidance?
- Are there ongoing visits and coordination?
- Is the Council providing any guidance to the landowner (The Scottish Government)?

The site and fires have been ongoing since (my understanding) at least September 2024 and are an ongoing intolerable and statutory nuisance to the public health and an environmental hazard. There is clear evidence that some living on the site are not behaving in a responsible manner nor showing respect to nearby residents and are starting fires without written permission from either local authority or landowner

- As part of your policy and responsibility for managing unauthorised sites what steps have been taken to prevent and remove the waste?
- Why have you not deployed Section 33 of the EPA 1990 on the owners and/or the illegal encampments as they are clearly keeping and burning industrial waste without a waste management licence?
- Given that the waste can only be unlawfully deposited waste

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

why have you not exercised your powers under section 59 of the EPA 1990 to require the removal of unlawfully deposited waste?  
 \* Given the fires are all industrial waste has the Council, under Section 179 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 required the owner to take specific steps to remedy the lands condition and prevent the fires?

Regards

18	G10	Email sent to client	19/03/2025	19/03/2025	CDE	
----	-----	----------------------	------------	------------	-----	--

From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 19 March 2025 09:06  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: RE: Complaint APP 958044 Re: Scottish Government Site Waterfront EH5 1RT

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email regarding a further bonfire on Saturday night. I'll advise the other regulatory services about this, so everyone is kept up to date. I believe Ben McPherson MSP has recently held a meeting with the Police and the Scottish Government. My understanding is that Scottish Ministers are currently considering their legal options as the owners of the site. I've contacted the Scottish Government for an update. In the meantime, your FOI requests has been logged, and the relevant officers are putting together a response.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

19	G10	Email sent to [REDACTED] Scot Gov, for	19/03/2025	19/03/2025	CDE	
	G05	Email received from client		19/03/2025	CDE	

From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 19 March 2025 08:57  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: RE: Illegal encampment and able burning at site off Waterfront Avenue / West Granton Road

Good morning [REDACTED]

We have been contacted by several residents about waste burning on the site over this weekend. They are understandably distressed by the continuing situation. I believe Ben McPherson had a recent meeting with Scottish Government representatives about what actions may be taken by SG. Are you able to provide any updates?

Many thanks

Claire

[REDACTED]

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

[REDACTED]

20	G05	Email received from client - burning happening now		20/03/2025	CDE	
----	-----	--	--	------------	-----	--

21	G05	Email received from client - pictures of burning		21/03/2025	CDE	
----	-----	--	--	------------	-----	--

22	G10	Email sent to client to advise	21/03/2025	21/03/2025	CDE	
----	-----	--------------------------------	------------	------------	-----	--

From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 21 March 2025 15:06  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: RE: UNAUTHORISED SITE WATERFRONT COMPLAINT APP 958044

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

My colleague [REDACTED] attended the site, with Police accompaniment, just after 12 noon yesterday. The fire was out at that point although it was clear there had been recent burning. As mentioned before, the powers that our officers are authorised under are restricted in this regard with being able to identify a responsible person to be able to take formal action against. We're continuing to liaise with the other regulatory and enforcement services, and you should hopefully receive a response to your FOI request soon which will detail what actions have been taken by the services that enforce the waste legislation and policies regarding traveller sites.

In the meantime, we would encourage to keep reporting any issues so that we can build up our independent evidence.

I'm on leave from now until the week beginning 7th April, so please send any correspondence during that time period to publichealth@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

23	G05	Email received from client		21/03/2025	CDE	
----	-----	----------------------------	--	------------	-----	--

From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: 22 March 2025 11:53  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: Re: UNAUTHORISED SITE WATERFRONT COMPLAINT APP 958044

[REDACTED] Noted re holiday. [REDACTED] attended after the first fires the further and largest fire to date was the photos I sent??

External email

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

[REDACTED]  
Noted re holiday.

[REDACTED] attended after the first fires the further and largest fire to date was the photos I sent later and was at its peak around 1800.

Identifying a responsible person is straightforward. The fire service advise that they are called by the "responsible adult" to inform of "controlled" so the fire services have the name and contact of the responsible person(s)

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPad

24	G31	Review - no further correspondence during my leave (21 Mar to 7 April).	07/04/2025	08/04/2025	CDE	
----	-----	---	------------	------------	-----	--

25	G05	Email received from client - reporting more travellers onsite.		11/04/2025	CDE	
----	-----	--	--	------------	-----	--

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 April 2025 11:11  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON COMPLAINT APP 958044

Dear [REDACTED] I would just like to inform you that a further 9 caravans and assorted commercial and industrial vehicles ha??

External email

First time sender

Dear Claire

I would just like to inform you that a further 9 caravans and assorted commercial and industrial vehicles have parked on the illegal encampment on the Scottish Government Waterfront site this week. The total is now around 20 caravans some with children and dogs.

That makes it clear that there are no barriers, restriction or policing, physical or otherwise, to their movement. It is now April, some five months since we were first informed that all parties were awaiting an update and information from the Scottish Government on their next steps to remove the encampment. Not a response or even the civic politeness of an update from them despite repeated assurances.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SCH. DATE</u>	<u>ACT. DATE</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
-------------	--------------	--------------------	------------------	------------------	------------	-----------------

Furthermore I am still awaiting a response to my Complaint APP 958044 and my FOI request to City of Edinburgh Council which is at the 20 day threshold.

Whether this is wilful inaction or bureaucratic incompetency is clearly debatable at this juncture. It seems that no one person is either responsible or accountable for this matter despite best efforts by local and national politicians. But let's not pretend otherwise if this was anywhere else in Edinburgh, other than Granton, the illegal encampment, the blight, the industrial scale burning of commercial waste, the public health impact on the wider community and the environmental damage would not be tolerated or enabled in the same way by the police and fire services, government agencies at local and national levels and it seems the Scottish Government.

Whilst there has been no severe deliberate large fires for a couple of weeks the warm weather and the increase in numbers to around 40 plus people and animals and the obvious need for sanitation and the disposal of their personal toilet waste is clearly going to increase the public health hazard and risk to the nearby residents and wider communities. Can you advise me what action the Council will be taking to manage and monitor this?

Furthermore there continues to be a large scale build up of commercial and industrial fly tipping and waste on the site without any concern, inspection, control or removal by any local or national government agencies. Again why is the Council taking no action to control this?

The continued severe social, community and environmental blight, living with a constant fear of industrial scale fires with the associated smoke and fume pollution and a woeful lack of action by any responsible body will clearly be having an ongoing and damaging impact on the mental health and wellbeing of individuals, families and residents living in the community around the illegal encampment and diminishing rapidly what little confidence is left in local and national agencies and governments to take the appropriate action.

What is being sought is both a response and plan of action from the Scottish Government to remove the illegal encampment. Furthermore any reasonable resident and citizen would expect proper fair and reasonable enforcement, by the Council and national Government agencies, of all appropriate legislation, on both the travellers and the landowners, that impacts the activities on the illegal encampment such as fly tipping, fires without permission, intolerable and statutory nuisance, trespass, unlawfully deposited waste, removal of unlawfully deposited waste etc etc. All matters highlighted on the Scottish Government's own Guidance to Local Authorities on Travellers. Yet to date inaction on these matters is blamed either on the Scottish Government or the "volatility or apparent threatening behaviours" of the travellers despite police presence.

As a minimum all I and other residents are asking for and would appreciate is a clear plan and next steps from the landowner, the Scottish Government, the City of Edinburgh Council and all other concerned parties to address the illegal encampment and ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all residents and wider community directly impacted by the site and the enforcement of the relevant public health and environmental legislation and responsibilities by

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

Local and national agencies.

I look forward to your response and update.

Regards

[Redacted]

26	G10	Email sent to [Redacted] asking [Redacted] to respond to client.		11/04/2025		CDE
----	-----	--	--	------------	--	-----

From: [Redacted]  
 Sent: 11 April 2025 15:29  
 To: [Redacted]  
 Subject: FW: ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON COMPLAINT APP 958044

Good afternoon [Redacted]

Please see below email. I have advised the FOI Team of the concerns raised by the applicant. Are you able to pull together a response to the concerns raised by [Redacted]

Many thanks

[Redacted]

27	G05	Email received from contact centre - transcript of call from client on 15th April at 23.34		17/04/2025		CDE
----	-----	--	--	------------	--	-----

Session ID : fbfd5e52-5027-429c-bdbf-35b2333da618\_4511701  
 Export time : 16/04/2025 09:15:02  
 Request : Complaint

route : transcribe.php  
 session\_tbl\_id :  
 caller\_id : 447713621545  
 startprim : 20250415234520

[Redacted]

description\_complaint : I'd like to report another large out of control, unauthorised industrial fire with extreme amount of pollutant smokes. It's now quarter to midnight. It's on the Scottish Government site just off Granton Park Avenue in Granton. The fire have refused to come out, and the police don't want do about it. But once again, there's a huge fire of industrial waste, and no one is interested or bothered. And I'd like to call them to see what the Council do. It seems to be that everyone's pointing the finger, environmental control, and, obviously, it's midnight, and there's no one that's able to come and have a look at the fire. It's absolutely ridiculous. It's a huge industrial scale fire, and it's midnight. Thank you.

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

submit : Submit  
service : edien

28	G05	Email received from client From: [REDACTED] Sent: 16 April 2025 10:44 To: [REDACTED] Subject: UNAUTHORISED SITE WATERFRONT STATUTORY NUISANCE COMPLAINT APP958044		16/04/2025	CDE	
----	-----	---	--	------------	-----	--

[REDACTED] Further to my complaint of 19th February and at least a further 6 large scale unauthorised industrial scale fires??

External email

[REDACTED]

Further to my complaint of 19th February and at least a further 6 large scale unauthorised industrial scale fires with associated fumes and toxic smoke since then can you please update me to the status of the complaint and when I can expect either an update or outcome?

Separately I will be advising you of further large scale fire last night at 23.30.

Regards

29	G05	Email received from client detailing large scale fire at site on night of 15th.		16/04/2025	CDE	
----	-----	---	--	------------	-----	--

30	G10	Email sent to client From: [REDACTED] Sent: 17 April 2025 12:02 To: [REDACTED] Subject: RE: UNAUTHORISED SITE AND FIRES WATERFRONT GRANTON APP958044	17/04/2025	17/04/2025	CDE	
----	-----	--	------------	------------	-----	--

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for advising about the fire on the night of 15th April. The call you made to the Council switchboard was passed to our service on 16th as well.

Our service is still investigating (case reference 958044) and building evidence in relation to whether the fires might constitute a Statutory Nuisance, but we do not have staff available during the evening to gather evidence. As previously advised, we have significant practical difficulties in being able to consider formal action on the individuals involved and are reliant on Police assistance in this regard. Please do continue to report fires that

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

occur, and if we have staff available, we will try to attend as quickly as we can.

A number of the points you have raised in your emails of 11 April and 16 April relate to legislation or policy that our service doesn't deal with or have expertise in. I'm currently trying to determine who the appropriate main contact for City of Edinburgh Council should be, and what's the best email address. Once I've got that I'll let you know, and I'll ask them to respond to the concerns you have raised.

The Scottish Government, as the landowners, ultimately have responsibility in resolving this issue. I've asked the Scottish Government for a contact point, and they have requested that you email CentralCorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot. They will log the correspondence and pass to the appropriate team.

Kind Regards



31	G05	Email received from client From: [REDACTED] Sent: 17 APRIL 2025 13:06 To: [REDACTED] Subject: Re: UNAUTHORISED SITE AND FIRES WATERFRONT GRANTON APP958044	17/04/2025	CDE		
----	-----	--	------------	-----	--	--

Thanks [REDACTED] that's very helpful and appreciated. Regards [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Sent from my iPad On 17 Apr 2025, at??

External email

Contains topics of a financial nature

Thanks Claire that's very helpful and appreciated.

Regards

Colin  
Colin J McLauchlan

32	G05	Email received from client (sent on 18th, received on 23rd due to leave). From: Colin McLauchlan <colinjmclauchlan2@gmail.com> Sent: 18 April 2025 11:40 To: Claire Devlin <Claire.Devlin@edinburgh.gov.uk> Subject: ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENT AND UNAUTHORISED FIRES WATERFRONT GRANTON APP 9580544	23/04/2025	CDE		
----	-----	---	------------	-----	--	--

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

[REDACTED] It is with regret that I have to report another large scale unauthorised fire on the Scottish Government site at G??

External email

Discusses sensitive information

[REDACTED]  
It is with regret that I have to report another large scale unauthorised fire on the Scottish Government site at Granton. Individuals were flytipping industrial waste all through the day.

I reported it to the fire service who advised me that once again it had been phoned in as a controlled fire and that I had any issues I should raise them with the police or the council.

Obviously at that time there is no-one available from the Council and clearly it is a deliberate ploy by those on the illegal encampment to light fires late at night with no means of seeing whether it is controlled or the scale of the fumes and smoke.

Do you have the contact details for the Council's Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer please?

regards

33 G05 Email received from client (sent on 23/04/2025 CDE 22nd, received on 23rd due to leave).  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 22 April 2025 12:06  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT AND UNAUTHORISED FIRES COMPLAINT APP 958044

[REDACTED] It is with continued regret and profound disappointment that I have to report a further two very large unauthoris??

External email

Contains topics of a financial nature

Claire

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

It is with continued regret and profound disappointment that I have to report a further two very large unauthorised fires of flytipped industrial and commercial waste this Easter holiday weekend on the Scottish Government site Waterfront Granton . On Saturday the 19th at around 22.00 and Sunday 20th at around 15.45. This is now four fires in the past week.

Every night we go to bed having to fear if there are further fires. On Easter Sunday on a lovely sunny afternoon we, and all other residents, could neither open our windows or sit out front in the sun because of another unauthorised fire. The constant blight of the unauthorised camp site on the area: the fires, the fumes, the flytipping. Its continuous impact on the health and wellbeing of the residents and the overwhelming feeling, demonstrated by the lack of any action or interventions in the past six months alone, that nobody gives a damn as its all out of sight and out of mind in Granton.

Whilst I appreciate, and I trust, that you are endeavouring to get some resolution and movement in this matter it is clear that there is a lot more that the CEC, the Fire Service and other relevant parties can do and stop doing to ensure there is no further fires or flytipping on the site.

Notwithstanding that the more fundamental issue of their removal needs to be addressed and timescaled by the landowners, the Scottish Government.

As requested in my previous email it would be really helpful to have the email address for the CEC Gypsies and Travellers Liaison Officer.

Regards

34	G05	Email thread with [REDACTED]		23/04/2025		CDE
		From: [REDACTED]				
		Sent: 23 April 2025 14:33				
		To: [REDACTED]				
		Cc: NorthWestFHS				
		<northwest.familyandhouseholdsupport@edinburgh.gov.uk>				
		Subject: RE: ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON COMPLAINT APP 958044				

Hi [REDACTED] I will respond to the customer and copy you in. Normally, customer enquiries should go to northwest.familyandhouseholdsupport@edinburgh.gov.uk and a member of staff would respond.

I will get back to [REDACTED] on this occasion.

Best wishes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 April 2025 11:25
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON COMPLAINT APP 958044

Good morning [REDACTED]

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SCH. DATE</u>	<u>ACT. DATE</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
-------------	--------------	--------------------	------------------	------------------	------------	-----------------

Please respond to [redacted] direct about these issues. We have also had several affected residents requesting a direct point of contact for the Council about various issues to do with this camp site. Can you confirm that your email address is the most appropriate to provide? If it is not, please advise who the best point of contact for the Council is?

Many thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 22 April 2025 10:12  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON COMPLAINT APP 958044

Good Morning [redacted] apologies for the delay- I was on leave until today.

I can confirm that the City of Edinburgh Council and Police Scotland are aware of these encampments. This land at Gypsy Brae is owned by The City of Edinburgh Council.

An initial site visit has been undertaken by CEC and Police Scotland, to establish the planned length of stay and to identify any support needs of residents. This encampment is being managed by CEC in line with Scottish Government Guidelines on the Management of Unauthorised Encampments. A review meeting has been conducted by CEC and a further one is planned for this week. Our senior legal advisor will decide whether there are legal grounds for the removal of the encampment. This can be a lengthy process as it involves Court action.

The other 2 encampments are not on City of Edinburgh owned land. Several visits have also been carried out by Police Scotland, The City of Edinburgh Council and other partner organisations. The Scottish Government owns the land referred to at the old wire works. They have been advised that they alone are responsible for any legal action to remove the encampment. The same would be the case for the private landowner at West Shore Road.

Police Scotland and I will be attending these sites again this week. The following advice should be offered to members of the public.

If you are experiencing any issues regarding the Control of Dogs this can be reported to our Street Enforcement Team by emailing [Streetenforcement@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Streetenforcement@edinburgh.gov.uk) or by phoning Police Scotland on 101 or 999 in an emergency. You can also report littering/fly tipping to our Street Enforcement Team.

If you witness any anti-social behaviour you can report this when this to Police Scotland on 101 or 999 in an emergency and to Family and Household Support by emailing

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

northwest.familyandhouseholdsupport@edinburgh.gov.uk or by telephone  
on [REDACTED] during office hours.

Best wishes [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 April 2025 15:29

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON COMPLAINT APP  
958044

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Please see below email. I have advised the FOI Team of the concerns  
raised by the applicant. Are you able to pull together a response to  
the concerns raised by [REDACTED]

Many thanks

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 April 2025 11:11

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON COMPLAINT APP 958044

Dear [REDACTED] I would just like to inform you that a further 9 caravans  
and assorted commercial and industrial vehicles ha??

External email

First time sender

Dear Claire

I would just like to inform you that a further 9 caravans and  
assorted commercial and industrial vehicles have parked on the  
illegal encampment on the Scottish Government Waterfront site this  
week. The total is now around 20 caravans some with children and  
dogs.

That makes it clear that there are no barriers, restriction or  
policing, physical or otherwise, to their movement. It is now April,  
some five months since we were first informed that all parties were  
awaiting an update and information from the Scottish Government on  
their next steps to remove the encampment. Not a response or even the  
civic politeness of an update from them despite repeated assurances.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SCH. DATE</u>	<u>ACT. DATE</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
-------------	--------------	--------------------	------------------	------------------	------------	-----------------

Furthermore I am still awaiting a response to my Complaint APP 958044 and my FOI request to City of Edinburgh Council which is at the 20 day threshold.

Whether this is wilful inaction or bureaucratic incompetency is clearly debatable at this juncture. It seems that no one person is either responsible or accountable for this matter despite best efforts by local and national politicians. But let's not pretend otherwise if this was anywhere else in Edinburgh, other than Granton, the illegal encampment, the blight, the industrial scale burning of commercial waste, the public health impact on the wider community and the environmental damage would not be tolerated or enabled in the same way by the police and fire services, government agencies at local and national levels and it seems the Scottish Government.

Whilst there has been no severe deliberate large fires for a couple of weeks the warm weather and the increase in numbers to around 40 plus people and animals and the obvious need for sanitation and the disposal of their personal toilet waste is clearly going to increase the public health hazard and risk to the nearby residents and wider communities. Can you advise me what action the Council will be taking to manage and monitor this?

Furthermore there continues to be a large scale build up of commercial and industrial fly tipping and waste on the site without any concern, inspection, control or removal by any local or national government agencies. Again why is the Council taking no action to control this?

The continued severe social, community and environmental blight, living with a constant fear of industrial scale fires with the associated smoke and fume pollution and a woeful lack of action by any responsible body will clearly be having an ongoing and damaging impact on the mental health and wellbeing of individuals, families and residents living in the community around the illegal encampment and diminishing rapidly what little confidence is left in local and national agencies and governments to take the appropriate action.

What is being sought is both a response and plan of action from the Scottish Government to remove the illegal encampment. Furthermore any reasonable resident and citizen would expect proper fair and reasonable enforcement, by the Council and national Government agencies, of all appropriate legislation, on both the travellers and the landowners, that impacts the activities on the illegal encampment such as fly tipping, fires without permission, intolerable and statutory nuisance, trespass, unlawfully deposited waste, removal of unlawfully deposited waste etc etc. All matters highlighted on the Scottish Government's own Guidance to Local Authorities on Travellers. Yet to date inaction on these matters is blamed either on the Scottish Government or the "volatility or apparent threatening behaviours" of the travellers despite police presence.

As a minimum all I and other residents are asking for and would appreciate is a clear plan and next steps from the landowner, the Scottish Government, the City of Edinburgh Council and all other concerned parties to address the illegal encampment and ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all residents and wider community directly impacted by the site and the enforcement of the relevant

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

public health and environmental legislation and responsibilities by local and national agencies.

I look forward to your response and update.

Regards

35	G05	Email received - cc-ed into email from [REDACTED] to client. From: [REDACTED] Sent: 23 April 2025 14:39 To: [REDACTED] Cc: [REDACTED] Subject: RE: ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON COMPLAINT APP 958044		23/04/2025		CDE
----	-----	--	--	------------	--	-----

Dear [REDACTED]

I can confirm that the City of Edinburgh Council and Police Scotland are aware of several unauthorised encampments in the wider Granton area. This land at Gypsy Brae is owned by The City of Edinburgh Council.

An initial site visit has been undertaken by CEC and Police Scotland, to establish the planned length of stay and to identify any support needs of residents. This encampment is being managed by CEC in line with Scottish Government Guidelines on the Management of Unauthorised Encampments. A review meeting has been conducted by CEC and a further one is planned for this week. As I understand, legal proceedings have commenced to remove this encampment.

The other 2 encampments are not on City of Edinburgh owned land. Several visits have also been carried out by Police Scotland, The City of Edinburgh Council and other partner organisations. The Scottish Government owns the land referred to at the old wire works. They have been advised that they alone are responsible for any legal action to remove the encampment. The same would be the case for the private landowner at West Shore Road, where there is another encampment.

Police Scotland and I will be attending these sites again this week. I understand the Scottish Government are considering pursuing legal action for the removal of this encampment. For clarity, the only way this encampment will be removed, is if the Scottish Government pursue legal action. The City of Edinburgh Council has absolutely no jurisdiction over this matter.

If you are experiencing any issues regarding the Control of Dogs this can be reported to our Street Enforcement Team by emailing [Streetenforcement@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Streetenforcement@edinburgh.gov.uk) or by phoning Police Scotland on 101 or 999 in an emergency. You can also report littering/fly tipping to our Street Enforcement Team.

If you witness any anti-social behaviour you can report this when this to Police Scotland on 101 or 999 in an emergency and to Family and Household Support by emailing [northwest.familyandhouseholdsupport@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:northwest.familyandhouseholdsupport@edinburgh.gov.uk) or by telephone on 0131 529 5014 during office hours.

ITEM EVENT DESCRIPTION SCH. DATE ACT. DATE OFF ACTIVITY



36 G10 Email sent to client advising of appropriate Council contacts. 24/04/2025 CDE  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 24 April 2025 17:00  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT AND UNAUTHORISED FIRES COMPLAINT APP 958044

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

I'm sorry to hear you've had further issues with the traveller site at Granton. I see you have now had an email from [REDACTED] the liaison officer. I have also been advised that the point of contact email for your general enquiries and complaints about the site should be directed to northwest.familyandhouseholdsupport@edinburgh.gov.uk.

In relation to the specific bonfires issue, please let us know if a fire occurs during daytime hours and we can try and get staff out to you (you can phone 200 2000 on any day, or email publichealth@edinburgh.gov.uk Monday to Friday. The email account is not monitored during the weekend).

Kind Regards



37 G05 Email received from client 28/04/2025 CDE  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 25 April 2025 16:26  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT AND UNAUTHORISED FIRES COMPLAINT APP 958044

[REDACTED] Thanks for the update. I can confirm I have had an email from [REDACTED] Can you advise me please who or what is the??

External email

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SCH. DATE</u>	<u>ACT. DATE</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
		Contains topics of a financial nature				

[REDACTED]

Thanks for the update.

I can confirm I have had an email from [REDACTED]

Can you advise me please who or what is the northwest.familyandhouseholdsupport@edinburgh.gov.uk email and where does it go and which team is responsible for managing and responding please?

Furthermore as I am still awaiting a response to my Complaint APP 958044 I would consider it appropriate to inform you of continued breaches to further assist your investigation. Can you share with me the expected completion date of the investigations for the Complaint please as now some weeks since it was first made.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

38 G10 Email sent to client 30/04/2025 30/04/2025 CDE  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 30 April 2025 17:02  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT AND UNAUTHORISED FIRES COMPLAINT APP 958044

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

That email address is for the Family and Household Support Service at the NorthWest Locality Office. [REDACTED] is the person who advised that enquiries should be directed there, and that team would handle responses.

We do not have a completion date for APP 958044. It will stay open during the investigation period. We do not have the requisite level of evidence to take action yet, and I once again stress the difficulties of being able to gather the level of evidence to be able to take action, which is a report to the Procurator Fiscal. Our email correspondence is the response in relation to Complaint APP 958044, but I cannot give you an expected outcome or dates of outcome.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

39	G05	Email received from client. From: [REDACTED] Sent: 01 May 2025 15:44 To: [REDACTED] Subject: Re: UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT AND UNAUTHORISED FIRES COMPLAINT APP 958044		01/05/2025	CDE	
----	-----	---	--	------------	-----	--

[REDACTED] Thanks for the helpful information and update. You may be aware but the Fire Service record the name and telephon??

External email

Contains topics of a financial nature

[REDACTED]  
Thanks for the helpful information and update.

You may be aware but the Fire Service record the name and telephone number of those individuals from the unauthorised encampment who light the unauthorised fires of commercial and industrial flytipped waste.

Regards

40	G10	Email sent to SFRS re phone calls about fires From: [REDACTED] Sent: 01 May 2025 16:02 To: [REDACTED] Subject: RE: Fires - Granton [OFFICIAL]		01/05/2025	CDE	
----	-----	---	--	------------	-----	--

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

We've been getting a repeated enquiry from a nearby resident of the Waterfont Avenue site about why we haven't taken action against those setting the fires. We have advised that our recourse would be to serve Notice and then consider a report to the Procurator Fiscal, but that both steps involve clear identification of the responsible persons which is very tricky.

The resident has come back to advise that they are aware that individuals are phoning into the Fire and Rescue Service to report a planned controlled burn, and therefore your service would hold specific details of the individuals / be able to identify the "responsible person". I strongly doubt we would be able to use this

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

information, as how can we confirm they are who they say they are, but I thought it was worth contacting you to explore this avenue. When they do call, do you get a full name from the individual, or any identifying features? Is it the same person who keeps calling?

Many thanks



41	G31	Review -no further correspondence. Need to chase up SFRS.	14/05/2025	14/05/2025	CDE	
----	-----	--	------------	------------	-----	--

42	G10	Email sent to SFRS From: [REDACTED] Sent: 15 May 2025 08:30 To: [REDACTED]	15/05/2025	15/05/2025	CDE	
----	-----	---	------------	------------	-----	--

Subject: RE: Fires - Granton [OFFICIAL]

Good morning,

Are you able to advise regarding the below, or perhaps point me in the direction of someone who may be able to assist?

Many thanks



43	G05	Email received from SFRS		15/05/2025	CDE	
----	-----	--------------------------	--	------------	-----	--

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 15 May 2025 13:02  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Fires - Granton [OFFICIAL]

Hi [REDACTED] Apologies for missing this. Names are not required to be passed to Control as part of a controlled burn notif??

External email

Contains topics of a financial nature

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies for missing this. Names are not required to be passed to Control as part of a controlled burn notification. It is only the caller's phone number which is recorded. Of course we'd be happy to support partners in progressing investigation, but any release of this information would have to be in accordance with our information governance policy and subject to internal legal opinion.

Hopefully that gives you a steer - Please let me know if there is anything else I can assist with.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

44 G10 Email sent to N Beaton, Scot Gov, for update. 19/05/2025 CDE

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 19 May 2025 14:53  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Appalling situation at Waterfront Av

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Do you have any updates on the Scottish Government's position / planned actions?

many thanks

[REDACTED]

45 G31 Review - no further correspondence so far. 11/06/2025 11/06/2025 CDE

46 G05 Email received from client. 13/06/2025 CDE  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 13 June 2025 11:24  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON COMPLAINT APP 958044

[REDACTED] I have copied you into my email of today but would just like to know when I shall be receiving a response to my c??

External email

ITEM EVENT DESCRIPTION SCH. DATE ACT. DATE OFF ACTIVITY

[REDACTED]

I have copied you into my email of today but would just like to know when I shall be receiving a response to my complaint which is now outstanding for some months?

Thanks and regards

[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: 13 June 2025 at 11:22:16 BST  
To: northwest.familyandhouseholdsupport@edinburgh.gov.uk  
Subject: UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON

UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON

Please be advised that following a significant reduction in the numbers of caravans and vehicles some 6-8 weeks ago there is now a steady return of caravans, people and vehicles this week.

The procrastination and inaction of the Scottish Government and its clear failure to both secure and manage the site merely enables this behaviour as they can come and go at will. I would appreciate if you could exert further pressure on the Scottish Government to take reasonable and swift action to clear and secure the site whilst the numbers remain currently low.

There are already incidents of small groups of traveller children wandering the residential areas to the North of the Scottish Government site trying doors and rooting in bins. This is a new set of behaviours outside of unauthorised fires and illegal flytipping. Again I would ask you to ensure that the City Of Edinburgh Traveller Liaison Manager and local police officers would make it clear this is unacceptable behaviour and ensure that all parties comply with the Scottish Government Guidance.

At the moment and for some months it is the settled community that continues to suffer the unauthorised encampment and it's blight on the local community. I hope this return of vehicles and people does not lead to a further escalation of previous fires, illegal fly tipping and unacceptable behaviours.

Regards

[REDACTED]

47 G10 Email sent to client 17/06/2025 17/06/2025 CDE  
From: [REDACTED]

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

Sent: 17 June 2025 16:17

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON COMPLAINT APP 958044

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

I'm not sure I understand, I have responded several times to queries regarding your case. What exactly are you looking for in terms of a response?

With regards to the status of your case, whilst it is currently still open, we have had no reports of bonfires on the site from you or other affected residents for some time. We do not have sufficient information to take any action at the moment under our powers. Should there be further bonfires which impact you in your home, then please do let us know by reporting any further fires to the Council (0131 608 1100 during office hours, and 0131 200 2000 at the weekend), and advise the Fire and Rescue Service. This will allow us to hopefully gather more evidence, although I will reiterate that we have difficulties with identifying responsible persons and will be only entering the site with Police colleagues. Other issues should be dealt with by the Traveller Liaison Manager.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

48 G05 Email received from client. 19/06/2025 CDE  
From: Colin McLauchlan <colinjmclauchlan2@gmail.com>  
Sent: 17 June 2025 16:34  
To: Claire Devlin <Claire.Devlin@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
Subject: Re: UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON COMPLAINT APP 958044

[REDACTED] Thanks for that and appreciate the challenges with identifying people. Although as advised previously that doesn't??

External email

Contains topics of a financial nature

Claire

Thanks for that and appreciate the challenges with identifying people.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SCH. DATE</u>	<u>ACT. DATE</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
-------------	--------------	--------------------	------------------	------------------	------------	-----------------

Although as advised previously that doesn't seem to be a problem with the Fire Service who take direct calls from individuals reporting "controlled" fires so I assume that they will keep detailed records of names and numbers etc for their requirements. Maybe they would furnish you with more details of the individuals reporting the fires.

However it would be interesting to know how many times the site has even been visited to assess the flytipping, rubbish and waste never mind the fires.

It's interesting too that all parties who can impact on the site will only enter the site with police escort yet the residents and community get no support from either the police or fire services.

Also we clearly know who the land owner is so why is it not possible to take action against them and hold them responsible for all the environmental incidents on their land? Surely there is a duty of care on the Scottish Government as landowner?

I was expecting a formal complaint to at least have some form of resolution and action but it seems that as with all matters concerning this site the interests and concerns of the residents and fixed community who are paying council and Scottish Government taxes continue to come last.

Regards and thanks

49	G33	Case Conference with [REDACTED] Scot Gov		23/06/2025		CDE
----	-----	--	--	------------	--	-----

Issue is being dealt with by the Culture Directorate, as the land is earmarked for a new arts archive. (Culture Capital Project), Funding for this has not yet been finalised (waiting for the UK Government's recent spending review etc.), however is it a priority for the Culture Cabinet Secretary.

[REDACTED] is now focusing her work on this project and has drafted guidance to go to the Cab Sec about the current issues onsite. In it, there is legal advice etc. regarding the status of those onsite, and consideration for the legal difficulties / equalities concerns an eviction process might bring. There are several recommendations in the briefing, but the main one is to look to work with partners and positively promoting a move from the site, and then once that has happened, securing the site effectively. It was acknowledged that there are two groups on site, with different needs and issues, and all issue onsite (e.g. fly tipping) cannot necessarily be fully attributed to those groups.

[REDACTED] will keep me updated with any decisions.

50	G31	Review - no further correspondence from client so far. Review at end of month.		16/07/2025	16/07/2025	CDE
----	-----	--	--	------------	------------	-----

51	G05	Email thread with client re materials		28/07/2025		CDE
----	-----	---------------------------------------	--	------------	--	-----

ITEM EVENT DESCRIPTION SCH. DATE ACT. DATE OFF ACTIVITY

onsite.  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 29 July 2025 10:00  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON COMPLAINT APP 958044

Thanks [REDACTED] and appreciate update and response. Regards [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Sent from my iPad On 28 Jul 2025, at ??

External email

Contains topics of a financial nature

Thanks [REDACTED] and appreciate update and response.

Regards

[REDACTED]

On 28 Jul 2025, at 17:15, [REDACTED] wrote:

Good afternoon,

Please see the information provided by [REDACTED] about further issues at Granton. Can someone please respond to [REDACTED] about this issue?

For clarity, our service can investigate where bonfires have been lit on the site.

Many thanks.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 26 July 2025 11:12  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT WATERFRONT GRANTON COMPLAINT APP 958044

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SCH. DATE</u>	<u>ACT. DATE</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
-------------	--------------	--------------------	------------------	------------------	------------	-----------------

Photographs from yesterday of significant levels of industrial fly tipping on the Granton site which is normally a prelude to fires.

I have copied in [redacted] for information and awareness.

You seek evidence and information and once again it is there. I'm sure Police Scotland will escort colleagues to and on the site.

Regards



52	G31	Review - client not called standby or been in touch recently.	19/08/2025	19/08/2025	CDE	
53	G31	Review - client not called standby or been in touch recently.	01/09/2025	01/09/2025	CDE	
54	G05	Email received from client to me and		08/09/2025	CDE	

From: [redacted]  
 Sent: 08 September 2025 12:19  
 To: [redacted]  
 Subject: UNAUTHORISED TRAVELLERS SITE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT LAND GRANTON

[redacted] Whilst I understand, as advised in a letter by Cabinet Secretary Angus Robertson, that there is a schedule???  
 External email



Whilst I understand, as advised in a letter by Cabinet Secretary Angus Robertson, that there is a scheduled senior level meeting regarding the above site involving senior officials from Council, Scottish Government and other interested elected and concerned parties in the coming days (and I assume perhaps yourselves?) I wanted to seek some clarification from you both regarding the site please.

First of all for information and awareness please and attached photos of the huge fire that burned for over two hours around 22.00 to 00.00 on Friday 5th September. This is the second such fire in two weeks. Furthermore there continues to be unhindered and ongoing fly-tipping of industrial and commercial waste on the site.

Secondly before I consider making a complaint to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman I would appreciate if you could respond to my questions please and for the avoidance of doubt treat as a Freedom of

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

Information Request.

- Have you either alone or with representatives or agents of the landowners, the Scottish Government issued the Scottish Government Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping or a specific code of conduct to or has been discussed with some or all of those on the unauthorised encampment?
- If so when if at all have you raised any of the continued and ongoing breaches around and including inter alia from Section 33 of the guidance:
  - o Not showing respect to nearby residents
  - o No fly-tipping
  - o Not starting fires without written permission from the local authority or landowner
  - o Not looking after the land the site is on
- Have you or any colleagues advised them that both under section 59 of the Guidance and Section 33 of EPA (1990) fly-tipping should not be present on site and that it is illegal to keep, treat or deposit waste on land without a management licence?
- Have you or any colleagues discussed with representatives of the Scottish Government their responsibility to remedy the removal of fly-tipping and caution them under Section 179 of the Town and Country Planning Act that it is their responsibility especially as the fly-tipping and unauthorised fires adversely affect the local area and community?
- Have you or any colleagues considered using Section 59 of the EPA(1990) which provides local authorities with powers to require the removal of unlawfully deposited waste including fly-tipping?
- Can you confirm that my original Complaint APP 958044 is closed without resolution?

Regards

[Redacted]

55	G10	Email sent to [Redacted] (back from leave tomorrow). From: [Redacted] Sent: 10 September 2025 16:12 To: [Redacted] Subject: RE: UNAUTHORISED TRAVELLERS SITE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT LAND GRANTON	10/09/2025	CDE		
----	-----	---	------------	-----	--	--

Good afternoon [Redacted]

Can you respond to [Redacted] email?

There is very little here within the remit of our service - Street Enforcement would look at fly-tipping/ rubbish issues. We do not deal with the below cited guidance or legislative section quoted.

I would advise that with regards to:

- Can you confirm that my original Complaint APP 958044 is closed without resolution?

That complaint is assigned to Environmental Protection and relates specifically to burning and is still currently open. Mr McLauchlan has been advised to call us when burning happens so that that we can

ITEM	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	SCH. DATE	ACT. DATE	OFF	ACTIVITY
------	-------	-------------	-----------	-----------	-----	----------

attempt to gather evidence to consider form al action, however, it would seem that currently the bonfires are being lit sporadically in the late evening, when we do not have staff available.

Many thanks

56 G05 Cc-ed into email from [redacted] to [redacted] 11/09/2025 CDE  
client (spearate enquiry from client that had come in via customer care).  
From: customer.care@edinburgh.gov.uk <customer.care@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
Sent: 11 September 2025 11:25  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] NorthWestFHS  
<northwest.familyandhouseholdsupport@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
Subject: RE: case 101001463078 - Initial Complaint APP 958044  
25/02/2025

Good morning, Thanks for your reply. I will pass that over now. Best wishes, [redacted] From: [redacted]

External email

Contains topics of a financial nature

Good morning,

Thanks for your reply.

I will pass that over now.

Best wishes,  
[redacted]

From: [redacted]  
Date: Thursday 11 September 2025 at 10:09:29  
To: Customer Care <Customer.Care@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
Cc: [redacted] NorthWestFHS  
<northwest.familyandhouseholdsupport@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
Subject: RE: case 101001463078 - Initial Complaint APP 958044  
25/02/2025

Please offer the following response to the customer

Dear [redacted]

In my role as Roadside Encampment Liaison Officer, when an encampment is on private land (as in this case, owned by Scottish Government), I am tasked with offering the landowner advice and providing support to members of the encampment.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SCH. DATE</u>	<u>ACT. DATE</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
-------------	--------------	--------------------	------------------	------------------	------------	-----------------

This has been undertaken. The Scottish Government are aware of the situation and have been advised by The City of Edinburgh Council, that they alone are responsible for any legal process to remove the encampment.

I understand that the Scottish Government have recently held meetings at a senior level to discuss the situation.

[REDACTED]

From: customer.care@edinburgh.gov.uk <customer.care@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
Sent: 11 September 2025 09:30  
To: Gordon Thomson <Gordon.Thomson@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
Cc: Claire Devlin <Claire.Devlin@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
Subject: RE: case 101001463078 - Initial Complaint APP 958044  
25/02/2025

Good morning [REDACTED]

As per [REDACTED] advice:-

Can you please take a look at the following email received in Customer Care.

Is this something that you can deal with?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Date: Wednesday 10 September 2025 at 16:45:31  
To: Customer Care <Customer.Care@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
Cc: Public Health <PublicHealth@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
Subject: RE: case 101001463078 - Initial Complaint APP 958044  
25/02/2025

Good afternoon,

The below case should be assigned to [REDACTED] Housing Officer, as [REDACTED] is also the site liaison officer.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SCH. DATE</u>	<u>ACT. DATE</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
-------------	--------------	--------------------	------------------	------------------	------------	-----------------

Many thanks

[REDACTED]


From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of  
Customer Care  
Sent: 09 September 2025 16:43  
To: Public Health <PublicHealth@edinburgh.gov.uk>  
Subject: case 101001463078 - Initial Complaint APP 958044 25/02/2025

Good afternoon  
Please see Case details included below.  
Would you be able to assist with this complaint and provide [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] with an update/response?  
Thank you

Summary

[REDACTED]

Other details : Ongoing unresolved complaint and issues re continued reporting of industrial scale fly tipping, uncontrolled huge fires with toxic black smoke and clear impact and/or risk forvboth the environment and the public health and well-being of residents. All taking place at the Government site at Granton.  
If your comments relate to a council service for which you have an account then please provide an account number :  
Short description of complaint : Initial Complaint APP 958044 25/02/2025 and all consequential email correspondence and attached pictures  
Please provide the details of the complaint : A clear and continuous failing of the Council to apply and enforce their own guidance and any powers available to them under the Clean Air Act 1993 and other Environmental Protection legislation and partners agencies to remove the ongoing and oft reported industrial scale fly-tipping from the Scottish Government owned land at Granton Park Avenue and to prevent the uncontrolled burning of industrial and commercial waste that has a severe and ongoing environmental and public health impact on the residents around the site. It is a clear and ongoing statutory nuisance. Also I have had no resolution or closure to my original complaint of some seven months ago. I have been in email correspondence with Claire Devlin, Gordon Thomson and Paul Baxter Whilst my complaint originates from February I understand that the flytipping and fires have been an ongoing problem for many months. For reference see all email correspondence between myself and the above mentioned Council employees.  
How would you like us to deal with this? : I would like the council and its partners to use its enforcement powers and to ensure either those camping on the unauthorised encampment or the known landowner,

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SCH. DATE</u>	<u>ACT. DATE</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
		the Scottish Government, do not flytip or enable flytipping which then removes the risk of uncontrolled fires burning and their impact on the environment and public health of residents. Please upload additional documents that may assist us :				
						
57	G31	Review - client not been back in touch.	24/09/2025	24/09/2025	CDE	
58	G31	Review - client not been back in touch.	09/12/2025	09/12/2025	CDE	
59	G31	Review - Notice to quit has been served but occupants may have lodged appeal.	27/01/2026	27/01/2026	CDE	
60	G31	Review - no update as yet.	05/02/2026	05/02/2026	CDE	
61	G31	Review - no update as yet	13/02/2026	13/02/2026	CDE	
62	G31	Review - legal action ongoing - client not been in touch for several months - fine to close in meantime.	18/03/2026	18/03/2026	CDE	
63	G81	Environmental Protection risk/concern resolved - Informal		18/03/2026	CDE	