

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

[REDACTED]  
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA060820-0321

10 August 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 6 August 2020. Your request has been dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

You asked for:

*With the dreadful events in Beirut and reports that authorities had been warned about the presence of a large amount of ammonium nitrate, I would like to know whether any large amount of hazardous materials are currently being stored in the GLA area.*

Our response to your request is as follows:

Sites with large scale storage of hazardous materials are subject to the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015. COMAH 2015 is enforced by a Competent Authority (CA) that comprises HSE, or the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) for nuclear establishments, acting jointly with the appropriate environmental agency. There is a guide to the Regulations here:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l111.htm>

There are two types (tiers) of establishment which are subject to COMAH, known as 'Upper Tier' and 'Lower Tier' depending on the quantity of dangerous substances they hold. Upper Tier establishments will hold greater quantities of dangerous substances meaning that additional requirements are placed on them by the Regulations.

There is a system to provide public information about COMAH establishments available on the HSE website: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/comah-establishments.htm>.

The purpose of this way of accessing information via a website is to enable people to find out about COMAH establishments in their local area.

This system can be used to identify if there is an Upper or Lower tier site within three miles of a postcode and to access a public information record for each site detailing information about the establishment, substances and emergency information, accident hazards and scenarios, consequences of accidents

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

  
**Information Governance Officer**

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>