

# SEE Questionnaire Environment Q5



## Has your company been subject to public complaint or investigation concerning pollution or other environmental damage?

### Rationale for question

The nature of environmental pollution and abuse is such that associated costs are incurred by people that had no participation in the activity. International and national environmental regulation covers a wide range of activities including waste production, noise pollution and air, water and land resource damage. Regional bodies, such as the European Union (EU), are key to effective regulation on trans-national issues.

Consequently, every business, regardless of sector or size, will be subject to some form of environmental regulation, often including workplace health and safety codes. Specific sectors may also face additional specific regulations concerning environmental damage or abuse. Some countries, particularly in Europe, have adopted the Polluter Pays Principle, a principle in environmental law which requires businesses to be legally and financially responsible for any environmental damage that they cause.

### Defining Terms

'Pollution' refers to intentional or accidental environmental contamination or abuse of air, water and land resources.

### Primary and Secondary answer requirements

#### ANSWERING YES

Companies must:

1. explain the content of the complaint or charge;
2. describe the nature of the investigation, if one was conducted, including the body that carried out the investigation; and
3. state the result of the investigation and recommendations, if any.

In cases where the company was found liable, it must also:

4. describe the steps taken to rectify the situation; and
5. mention the steps taken to prevent future occurrences.

#### ANSWERING NO

Companies may:

1. explain any steps taken, beyond the minimum regulatory requirements, to prevent pollution or other negative environmental damage due to business operations.

**DON'T KNOW** is not a permissible answer to this question.

**NOT APPLICABLE** is not a permissible answer to this question.

**NO ANSWER YET** is only permissible under extraordinary circumstances and then for only a limited period.