

M: Managing the environment and resources

In 2001, estimated dietary intakes of dioxins and PCBs were under one tenth and under one twentieth of their respective 1982 levels, whilst concentrations in air have decreased significantly since the early 1990s.

In 2001, UK stocks of high level radioactive waste were 9 per cent higher than they were in 1998 and 16 per cent higher than in 1991.

UK aerial radioactive emissions and emissions to water have continued to fall, by 41 per cent and 19 per cent respectively since 1990.

Ref. no.	Indicator		QOLC 1999		QOLC Updated Assessment		
			Change since		Change since		
			1970	1990	1970	1990	Strategy
M1	Concentrations of persistent organic pollutants		☹	☑	☹	☑	☑
M2	Dangerous substances in water	Lindane, Cadmium	☹	☑	Revised	Revised	Revised
		Mercury, DDT	☹	≈	Revised	Revised	Revised
		HCH, DDT	na	na	☹	☑	☑
		Cadmium	na	na	☹	☑	≈
		Mercury	na	na	☹	≈	≈
M3	Radioactive waste stocks	High level	☹	≈	☹	☒	☒
		Intermediate level	☹	☒	☹	☒	☒
M4	Discharges from the nuclear industry	Discharges to air	☹	☑	☹	☑	☑
		Discharges to water	☹	☑	☹	☑	☑

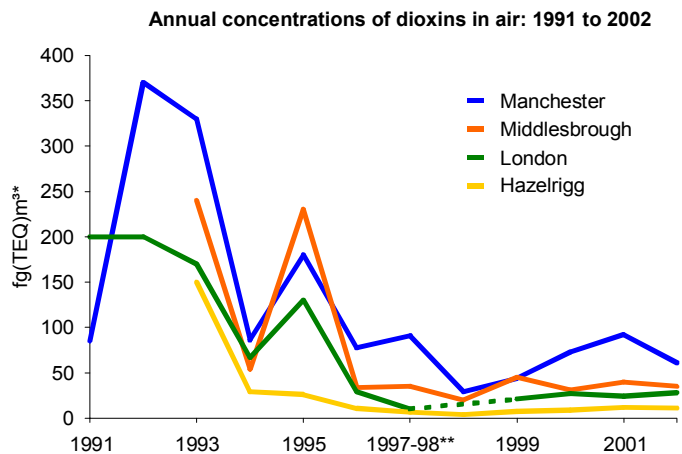
Indicator: Concentrations of persistent organic pollutants

M1

Change since

- ☹ 1970
- ☺ 1990
- ☺ Strategy¹

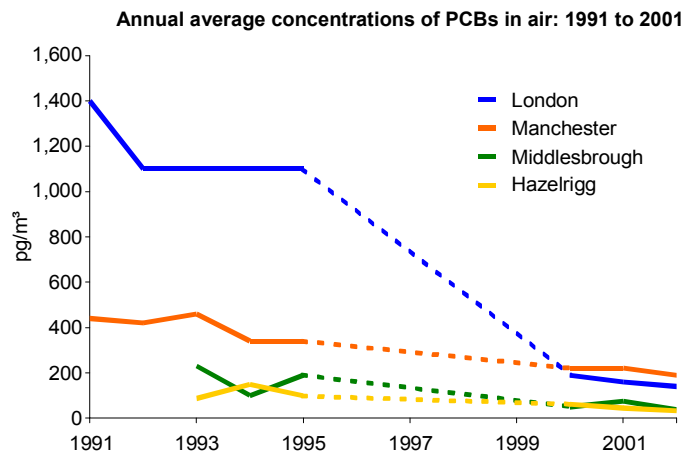
1. 1998-9 (dioxins),
1995 (PCBs),
1992 (dietary intakes)



England and Wales
Source: NETCEN

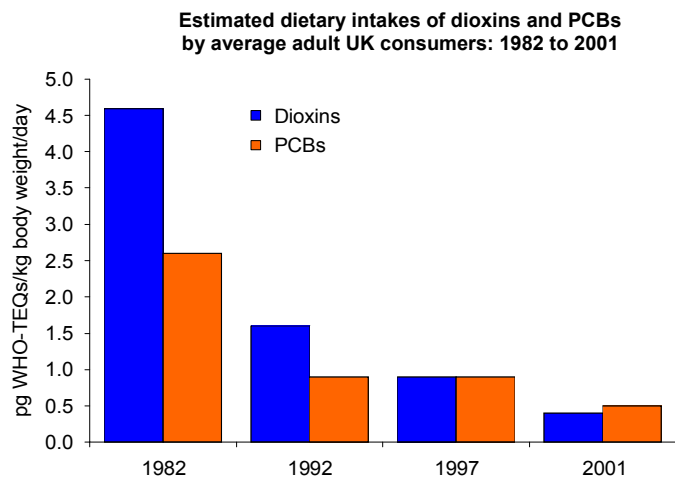
Note: * Congeners which were not detected have been included as if they were present at the detection limit.

** Q2-Q1 inclusive (e.g. 1996-97 included Q2-Q4 1996 and Q1 1997).



England and Wales
Source: NETCEN

Note: Data not available between 1996 and 1999



United Kingdom
Source: Food Standards Agency, Defra

Objective: Must not store up pollutant problems for the future

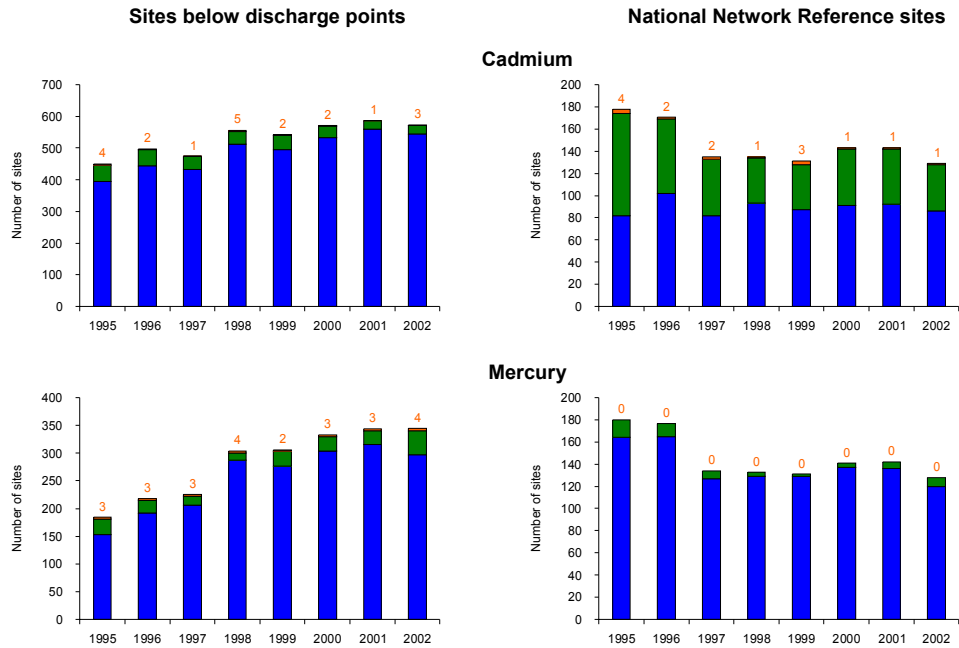
- Annual concentrations of dioxins in air have decreased substantially since the early 1990s, while showing relatively little change since the late 1990s.
- From 1995 to 2002, annual average concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in air fell by between 40 and 90 per cent at the four available monitoring sites.
- In 2001, estimated dietary intakes of dioxins and PCBs were under one tenth and under one twentieth of their respective 1982 levels.

M: 2

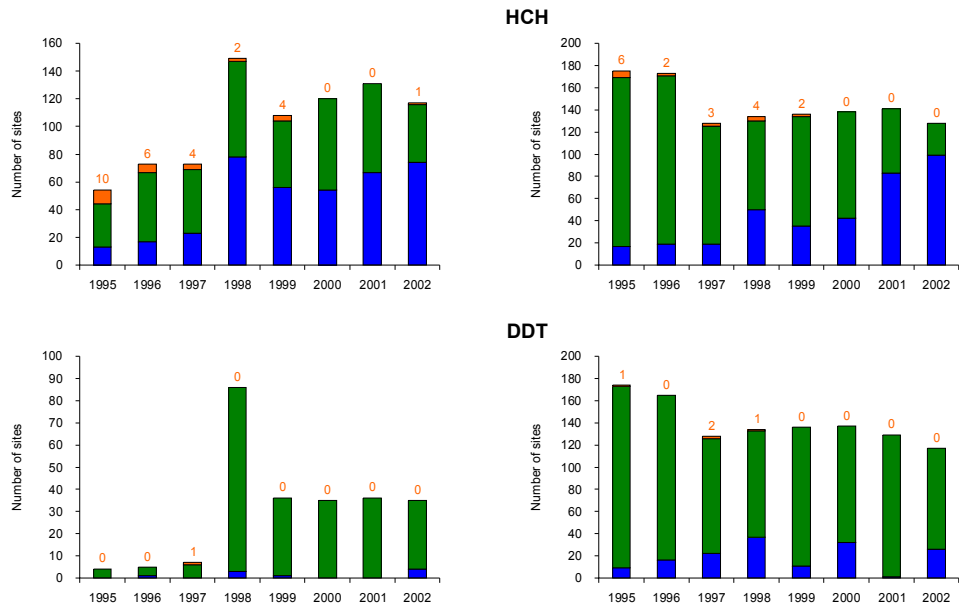
Indicator: Dangerous substances in water

M2

Exceedences of Enviromental Quality Standards for selected List 1 Substances: 1995 to 2002
a) Heavy metals



b) Pesticides



Key

- Greater than the EQS (number also shown above bar on chart)
- Between 10% of EQS and the EQS
- Less than 10% of the EQS

England and Wales
 Source: Environment Agency

Indicator: Dangerous substances in water (continued)

M2

Cadmium	Mercury	HCH, DDT
Change since	Change since	Change since
☹️ 1970	☹️ 1970	☹️ 1970
✅ 1990	⚠️ 1990	✅ 1990
⚠️ 1997	⚠️ 1997	✅ 1997*

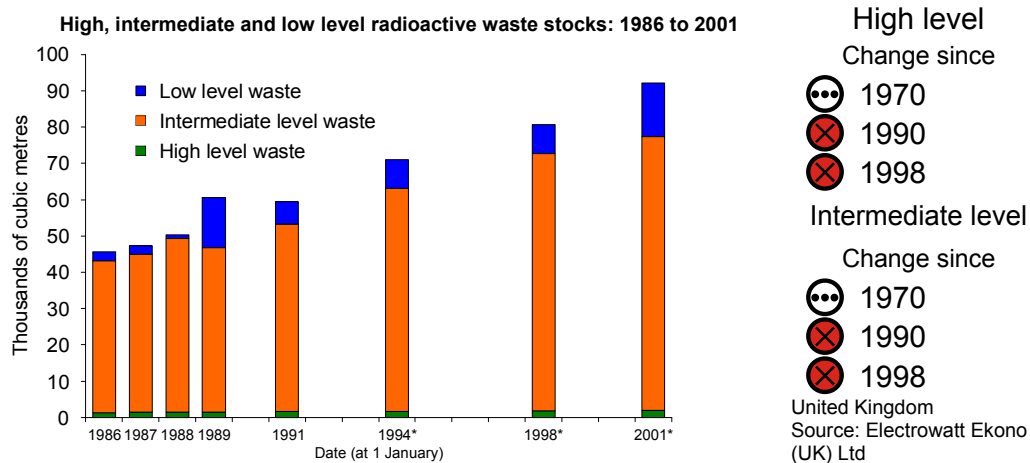
* No HCH in QoLC (1999)

Objective: Must not store up pollutant problems for the future

- This indicator is assessed in terms of the number of EQS (Environmental Quality Standard) failures. Only a very small proportion of sites show failures of EQSs. In the charts, the number of failures is also shown above the bar for clarity.
- Exceedences of HCH (including lindane) and DDT have reduced to the point where there are not normally any exceedences of EQSs.
- Most failures for mercury below discharge points reflect the legacy of past industrial activity¹. There have been no failures at National Network Reference sites.
- The trend for cadmium failures is unclear. There have been fewer at National Reference Network sites, but there were three below discharge points in 2002.

Indicator: Radioactive waste stocks

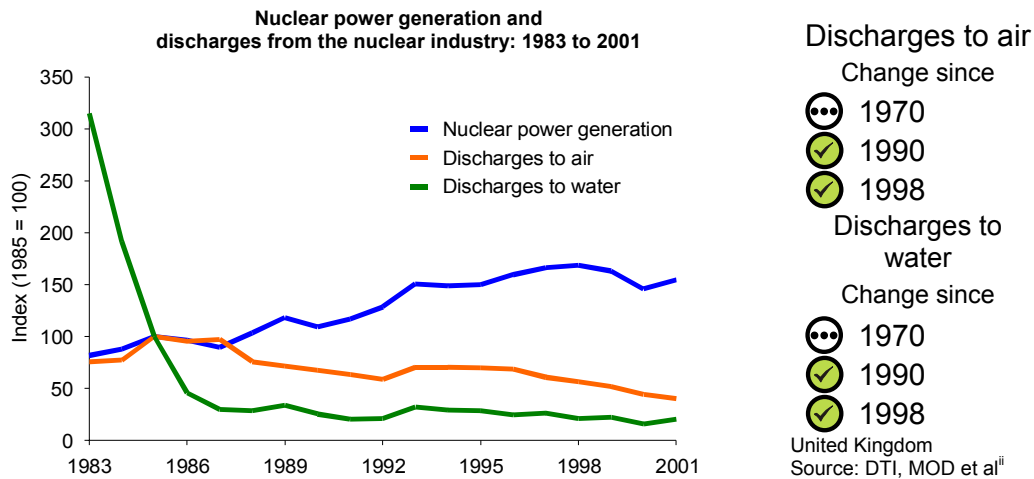
M3



Note: * stocks as at 1st April

Objective: Must not store up pollutant problems for the future

- In 2001, UK stocks of high level radioactive waste were 9 per cent higher than in 1998 and 16 per cent higher than in 1991.
- Stocks of intermediate level waste were 6 per cent higher than in 1998 and 46 per cent higher than in 1991.

Indicator: Discharges from the nuclear industry**M4**

Objective: Must not store up pollutant problems for the future

- UK aerial radioactive emissions fell by 29 per cent between 1998 and 2001, and by 41 per cent since 1990. Emissions to water fell by 2 per cent between 1998 and 2001 and by 19 per cent since 1990.
- Over the longer term, since 1983, aerial emissions have fallen by 47 per cent and water emissions by 93 per cent. At the same time electricity production from nuclear sources has increased by 89 per cent.

Additional Notes

- i. 2 sites below discharge points failing EQS have been added to the data for 1995-7 for consistency with the more recent data. They were not shown in the original edition of QoLC. These reflect the effect of mercury still in the sediment of the Trent & Mersey Canal from historic discharges.
- ii. FSA, SEPA, CEFAS, BNFL, UKAEA, British Energy Generation, Amersham plc. Figures have been revised owing to methodological change.