

Questions:

What are the most recent results of the environmental investigation?
How many sites have been tested so far?
How many positive readings of PFAS have been found on and off the Edinburgh site?
When will the study be completed?

Response:

In November 2016, Defence commenced a detailed environmental investigation into the nature and extent of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on and in the surrounding area of RAAF Base Edinburgh.

The second stage of the investigation, the Detailed Site Investigation (DSI), commenced in April 2017. This stage involves sampling and analysis of soil, surface water, sediment, groundwater and land vegetation on-base and in the surrounding region. Initial findings of the DSI have indicated that PFAS soil impacts are largely contained on-base with the off-base soil samples at this time below the human health guidance values.

Based on the initial findings, Defence commenced the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) process to better understand potential risks posed by PFAS to people and the environment.

Sampling on-and off-base will continue throughout the remainder of 2017 to inform both the DSI and HHERA. Sampling results go through a thorough analysis, review and audit process. Detailed reports, including the sampling results, will be prepared and shared with relevant government and regulatory bodies as well as the community once the DSI and the HHERA has been completed in 2018.

Updated Fact Sheets that provide a summary of findings to date are available at:
<http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Edinburgh/>

Defence is holding a further community information session on 1 November 2017. Details of this session are available on the Edinburgh investigation website.