



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Andrew Bowie MP
Minister for Nuclear and
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Dame Siobhain McDonagh (Mitcham and Morden – Labour)
House of Commons
London
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27 March 2024

Dear Siobhain,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question (PQ), received on 6th March, regarding the number of physical and cyber security breaches at the Sellafield site each year since 2015. This letter enables me to provide a more detailed response to your question.

The term “breach” is not defined in the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations (NISR) 2003. Therefore, to provide a response to the Hon. Member’s question, the Government have determined the following definitions of a physical and cyber security breach, established in collaboration with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). Please note, these definitions do not appear in legislation.

Physical security breach: a confirmed instance of a malicious actor deliberately entering the Sellafield site without authority.

Cyber security breach: confirmed malicious activity on ONR-regulated systems which results in sensitive classified data being lost/stolen or technology being sabotaged which would impact nuclear operations.

Using these definitions, there have been no breaches of physical or cyber security at Sellafield since 2015.

The above assessment has been conducted using definitions determined for the purpose of providing information as close to the requested data as possible. Therefore, I would also like to provide the Hon. Member with some further information regarding the security events or matters that are reported under NISR regulations 10 and 22, with the latter referring to Sensitive Nuclear Information. These matters are not necessarily breaches of security, but rather a broad spectrum of events the duty holder is legally required to report, including circumstances in which improvement was required without any incident occurring.

The following reports of security events have been reported to the ONR by Sellafield Ltd. since migration to ONR’s current management system.

Year	Reg 10 Event	Reg 22 Event	Total
2016 (<i>Aug – Dec</i>)	22	2	24
2017	68	18	86
2018	75	23	98
2019	70	29	99
2020	105	58	163
2021	156	31	187
2022	91	22	113
2023	53	7	60
2024 (<i>Jan – Feb</i>)	7	0	7

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Yours aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small hook.

Andrew Bowie MP
Minister for Nuclear and Renewables