

**Matter 14**

Monitoring takes two different forms. There is large scale monitoring – i.e. reviewing output etc – done on an annual basis. Then there is day to day monitoring of compliance with the conditions laid down in quarrying permissions. This is inadequate for aggregate quarries. There are a number of problems – blasting, light, noise, transport etc.

At present the aggregate quarries monitor their own blast levels – there is no independent monitoring. Complaints to the County Council are not taken seriously, and complainants are told to complain to the quarry manager – who may or not be available. They will tend to deny that there is a problem. Consequently, the local population find complaining useless, and the level of complaints does not reflect the nuisance.

Many of the quarry lorries speed on the local road (the maximum legal speed is 40mph for Heavy Goods Vehicle on a single carriageway road. On a dual carriageway it is 50mph).

In accidents HGV drivers are usually unhurt, whilst the occupants of the other vehicles involved may be seriously injured or killed.

Question 1/1

No.

Monitoring Indicator 14.

As quarries monitor themselves for vibration and noise the number of complaints is low. The county Council Mayor many not hear of them. This is totally unsatisfactory. Monitoring for adverse impact on amenity should be carried out by Somerset County Council or by an independent monitor.

A lot of HGV's regularly break the speed limit. An independent monitor should check their tachographs.