An Overview of Regulations Governing Contamination of Land

Introduction
The regulations on contaminated land are designed to prevent new land becoming contaminated by polluting substances whilst also tackling historic contamination of sites.

Contaminated land poses risks to human health and the environment and is covered by the following pieces of legislation:

- The Environmental Protection Act 1990 – The Contaminated Land Regime
- The Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006
- The Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations 2000
- The Contaminated Land (Wales) Regulations 2006
- The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

Who Is Affected?
You could be affected if you:

- Develop land that is contaminated
- Cause environmental damage to land
- Cause contamination in breach of your environmental permit
- Own or occupy land identified as contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act which deals with contaminated land caused by past use e.g. former factories, mines, steelworks

What Do You Need To Do?
You must ensure that your land is not contaminated. If land does become contaminated then your local authority or regional environment agency may serve a remediation notice requiring you to take corrective action.

Useful Links
For further information please visit the relevant website listed below:

- The Environment Agency [website](#)
- The Scottish Environment Protection Agency [website](#)
- The Northern Ireland Environment Agency [website](#)