



Environment
Agency

Environment Agency Emergency Planning and Response

Matt Gable

Senior Emergency Planner

matthew.gable@environment-agency.gov.uk

Introduction

- ➔ EA role in Emergency Planning
- ➔ Common pollutants
- ➔ Environment Agency Response
- ➔ Sanctions
- ➔ Defences
- ➔ Why prioritise the Environment



Emergency Planning

➡ Category 1 Responder

➡ Plan

➡ Co-operate

➡ Warn and Inform

➡ Risk Asses

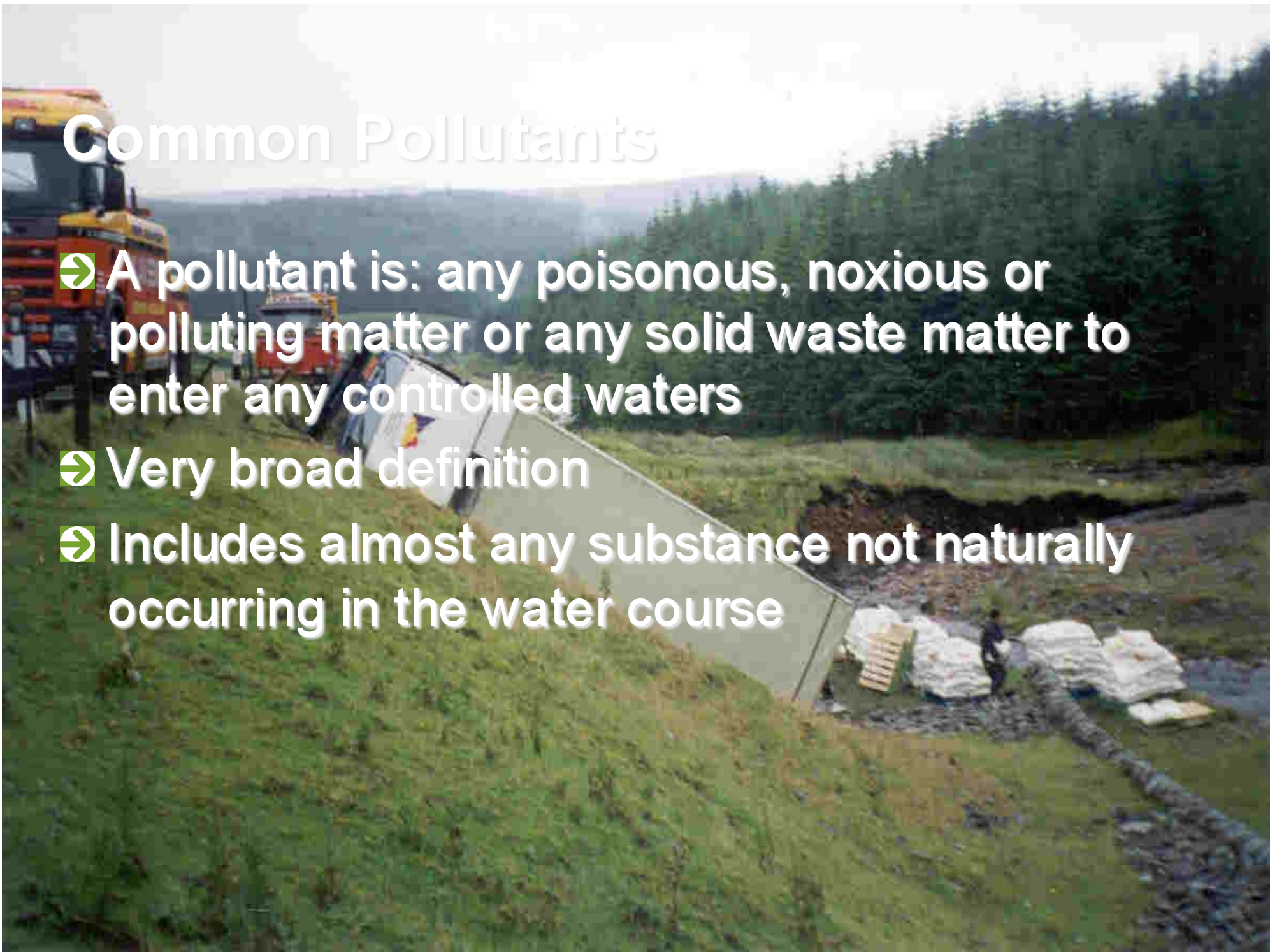
➡ Respond

➡ Have a Business Continuity Plan



Common Pollutants

- ➡ A pollutant is: any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter or any solid waste matter to enter any controlled waters
- ➡ Very broad definition
- ➡ Includes almost any substance not naturally occurring in the water course



Common Pollutants

- ➡ Oils & Fuels
- ➡ Sewage
- ➡ Farm waste
- ➡ Chemicals
- ➡ Foodstuffs







Sewage

⇒ High in Ammonia

⇒ BOD of >300 mg/l

⇒ Contains pathogens

⇒ Solid matter

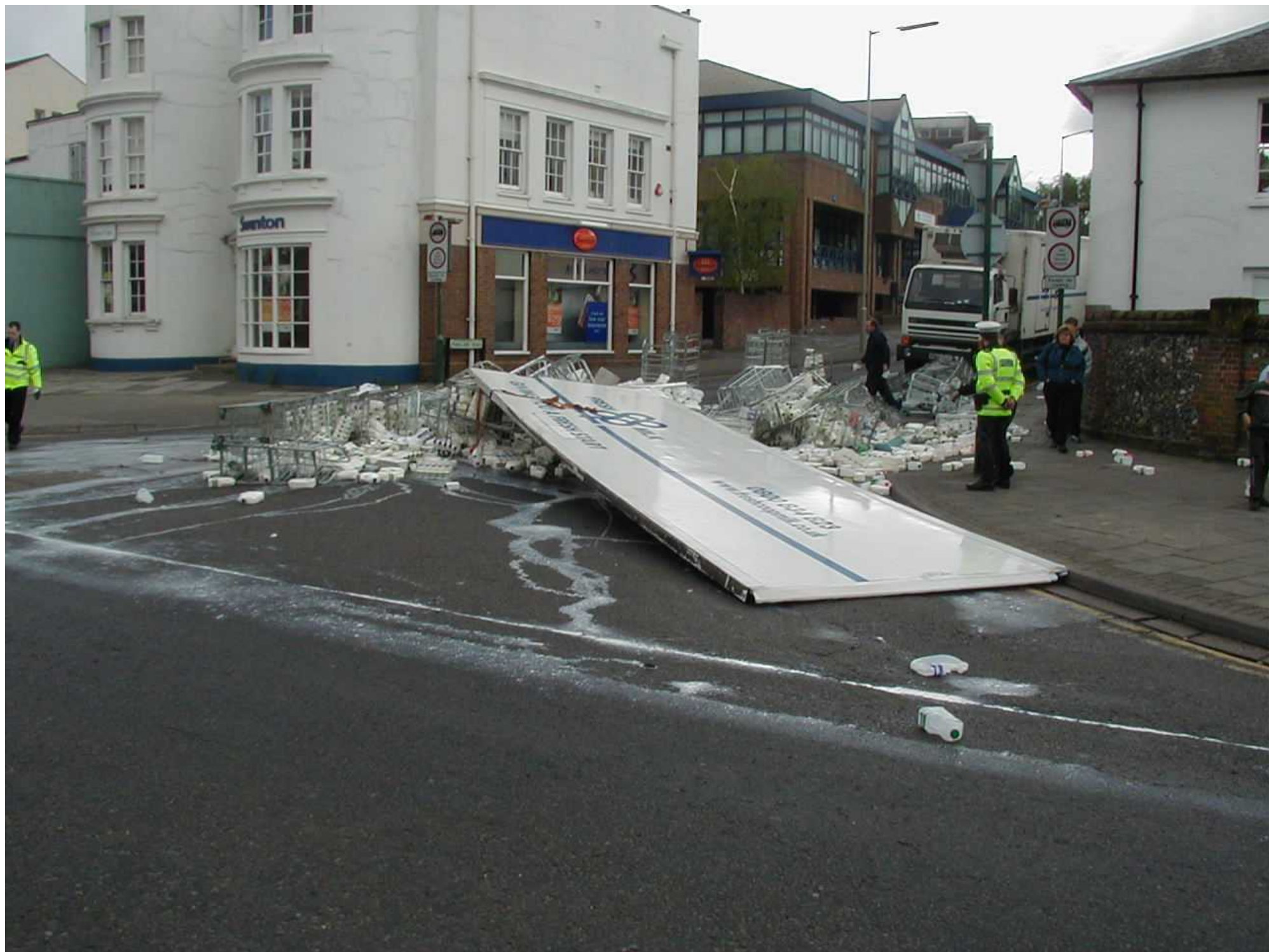
















EA response

➡ Category 1 responder

➡ 24/7/365 nationwide response

➡ 6 regions

➡ 16 areas





Fire Service MOU

➡ Highly successful partnership

➡ Environmental Protection Units

➡ Blue light response to environmental emergencies

➡ At least 1 unit per fire service

➡ Next Steps



Sanctions

- ➡ Strict liability offences
- ➡ No need to prove intent
- ➡ 3 levels of sanction
- ➡ Polluter pays principle

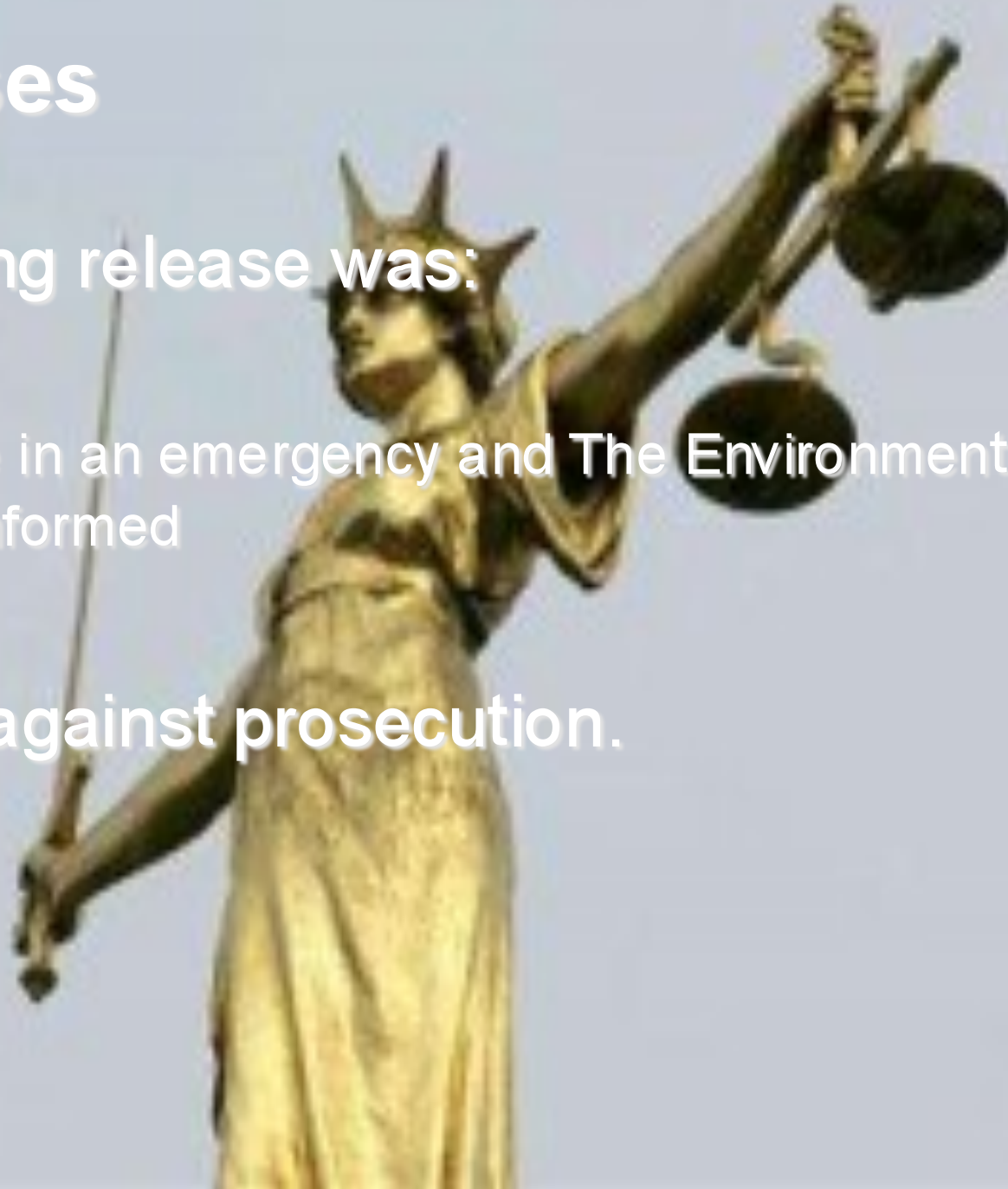


Defenses

➡ Polluting release was:

➡ Made in an emergency and The Environment Agency are informed

➡ Apply against prosecution.



Why consider the Environment?

➡ Drinking water

➡ Food

➡ Economy

➡ Amenity

➡ Costs

➡ Reputation



Any Questions?

