

Date: 21 March 2018
Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Via email – michael.gove.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Mr Gove

Clayton Hall Landfill Site, Chorley

As you know from correspondence with Chorley's MP, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Clayton Hall landfill site has been causing unacceptable and significant issues to a large number of our local residents.

The issues have been caused by the mismanagement of the site by its operator, Quercia Ltd. This has meant that uncontrolled gas releases from the site have caused disgusting odours for months to the local area. These are at best unpleasant, but have also caused symptoms for local residents that have now persisted for months. The latest delay, beyond the 19 March deadline in the notice from the Environment Agency, further damages residents' confidence that a solution will be delivered.

While the issues are caused by the site, the confidence of the public in public services' ability to protect them has currently been harmed. It is therefore vital that the Environment Agency is able to maintain focus and resources dedicated to getting the site well-managed. This includes;

- continuing mobile and static air quality monitoring until after the odour is no longer an issue;
- moving as quickly as possible to investigate and bring relevant enforcement action for the issues the site has caused;
- assessing and closely managing further improvements needed to control the impact the site has on neighbours and the local area

We are seeking your assurance that the Environment Agency will continue to have the resources and capabilities in place to manage this issue until it is solved. This includes close support from Public Health England as well as staffing and physical resources from within the Agency.

If you are not able to give these assurances, as the council is ordinarily precluded from taking regulatory action on the site, we ask that you give Chorley Council your permission to take over the regulatory management.

We look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely



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