



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

*New Complaint,*

**RE: WASTE INCINERATION & RECYCLING**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of waste incineration; your comments upon which I have read with great interest. I am sorry that I was not able to join your Zoom meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> December owing to other parliamentary commitments.

However, I understand your concerns about the growth of incineration, and I agree that we need to do all we can to encourage people to recycle and use resources more efficiently. I have also long been very actively involved in supporting local people in opposing various unwanted waste plant proposals for our area, particularly in Corby, dating back to the time before I was even elected as the Member of Parliament.

I agree that we need to do all we can to move the country towards a more circular economy and I am committed to limiting the waste that needs to be treated at energy-from-waste facilities. By being more 'resource efficient', we can ease pressure on the environment and our stocks of natural resources, but also reduce costs too, boosting productivity. The *Resources & Waste Strategy* sets the Government's higher recycling ambitions, including delivering a minimum 70 percent recycling rate for packaging waste by 2030.

In accordance with the waste hierarchy, the priority is to prevent waste in the first place and where it does arise, to reuse or recycle it. I am pleased that the *Environment Bill* contains powers to establish deposit return schemes and extended producer responsibility, and to stipulate a consistent set of materials that must be collected from households and businesses to help to make recycling services more consistent. This will further reduce the amount of England's waste that goes to incineration and landfill.


Unfortunately, there will always be waste that cannot be recycled or reused, because it is contaminated or because there is no end market. However, we cannot switch back to landfilling non-recyclable waste which is responsible for about 75 percent of carbon emissions from the waste sector. I am pleased that Ministers are clear that we should reduce the level of municipal waste sent to landfill to 10 percent or less by 2035, and are actively exploring options to work towards eliminating all biodegradable waste to landfill by 2030.

Finally, I would like to assure you that the Environment Agency assesses the emissions from new energy-from-waste plants as part of its permitting process and consults Public Health England on every application that it receives. The Environment Agency will not issue an environmental permit if the proposed plant will have a significant impact on human health or the environment. Once they are operational, the plants are closely regulated.



As I say, you can be assured that I will continue to campaign hard on these matters, alongside local people, as I know various waste plant proposals have been of great concern to many of my constituents over the years. Like them, I have been equally exercised and strident in my views about them. Finally, thank you again for having raised these concerns, which I shall gladly go and speak to the appropriate Ministers about.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you, then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*  


**TOM PURSGLOVE MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**