

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy

• Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Eaconamaidh do Mhath
Dhaoinne, Cothromachadh Carboin is Cumhachd
Mairi McAllan MSP/BPA



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T : 0300 244 4000

E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Ben Christman

bchristman@ercs.scot

Our Reference: 202400410114

Your Reference: Request for SEPA direction - incineration overcapacity (05.0623)

3 May 2024

Dear Ben and Shlomo,

Thank you for your letter of 19 April to the former Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity on a direction to SEPA address potential incineration overcapacity. As Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy, I have, for now, absorbed the responsibilities of the former minister in respect of the incineration of waste.

I share your concerns around incineration capacity. It is important that Scotland is able to manage our unavoidable and unrecyclable waste, particularly in light of the ban on landfilling biodegradable municipal waste in Scotland, which comes into force on 31 December 2025. As we move to a circular economy, we will produce less unavoidable and unrecyclable waste and it is important that we keep this in mind as we seek to ensure we have enough capacity to manage all of our own waste in Scotland.

This is why we have commissioned several capacity analyses over the past few years, notably the independent review of incineration, which highlighted the importance of appropriate incineration capacity, but recommended that the Scottish Government should ensure that no further planning permission (i.e. beyond that already in place) is granted to incineration infrastructure within the scope of this Review, with limited exceptions. In response, we addressed this in National Planning Framework 4, which is clear that Scottish Government will not support development proposals for energy from waste facilities except under very limited circumstances.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
We invest in people Silver



Since the independent review of incineration completed, plans have changed in relation to several facilities that were in development. For that reason, an additional capacity analysis was commissioned, through Zero Waste Scotland, as part of work to consider delivery of the ban on landfilling biodegradable municipal wastes. The outputs and recommendations of this work are currently under consideration by the Scottish Government, and I will write to you again once this concludes.

Yours sincerely



MAIRI MCALLAN

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Silver

