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Re-Views to Petition Committee on Ministers response
Waste and Incineration Petition, P-04-341

My initial view to the response of the Environment Minister is that again the Minister's reply to this petition and the Incineration Petition earlier in the year, is not the Ministers response but the Minister's official's response from his waste management office, we need a bold Minister to take on the change that is required to our waste management, if he cannot or will not see the enormous resources in waste as clearly can be seen in other countries then he should move over for a Minister with drive and ambition to do the job, to allow or promote Welsh Councils to lock themselves in to contracts on Incineration of 25+ years is an act of irresponsibility, and should challenged on such a decision.

I would welcome the Minister to personally reply to the questions in my response to the Petitions committee without asking his officials, because these questions are plain and simple for the people to understand.

The Minister states that local authorities are able to choose their own waste technologies and waste procurement, then why was Caerphilly Council who was 9 months in their procurement process of choosing a MBT technology had it stopped by the Welsh Assembly and financially pressurised in to Prosiect Gwyrdd, there are numerous MBT and Autoclave plants in operation around the country, there is an new MBT plant at Avonmouth with 9 year working contracts, the offer to our Welsh Government and its officials is to go and see this plant for themselves

The incineration debate as continued and the health risks are there, information and evidence is gathering by the day, Governments have buried their heads in the sand and continue to use outdated advice from their health departments.

It is time the Minister called for expert evidence, not rely on out dated information, the Minister needs to have the courage and vision to look at the waste management in Wales and to remember this, that once asbestos, smoking and lead in petrol was deemed safe once by our health departments, the warning signs are there, why would an informed person take a risk on human health issues when clearly there are alternative safer, cheaper options available, it gives rise to the question was is really going on here?

The Minister states that the Welsh Government has acted to stop potentially recyclable material from going to incineration by setting statutory targets to recycle 70% by 2025, a Welsh Government survey states that 93% of waste is recyclable, if it became illegal to burn certain recyclable waste the 93% target would be achievable sooner, Scotland as already made it illegal to incinerate certain waste

I would urge the petition committee to hold an oral inquiry and to call expert witnesses.

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