

Sharon Kemp
By email at: sharon.kemp@rotherham.gov.uk

Our ref: AM/16019
Your ref: 205-2223CX

2 December 2022

Dear Ms Kemp

Grange Landfill Site - Rotherham

Thank you for your letter of 21 October 2022 to our Chief Executive, Sir James Bevan. James has read your letter and asked me to respond on his behalf. He will also receive a copy of this response.

We note the contents of the Motion passed at the meeting of the Full Council of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough on 5 October 2022. We are disappointed by this outcome but we do also recognise the strength of feeling regarding this site, both in the local community and amongst local councillors.

As you are aware, our decision to grant a variation of the permit in 2016 was the subject of an internal independent review in 2017. The Environment Agency investigator concluded that: the decision to vary the permit was correct; it followed due process; that there would have been no grounds for the Environment Agency to refuse Grange Landfill Ltd's application to vary the permit; and that our actions prior to the variation did not materially affect the outcome. We believe that the current permit for the site provides robust controls on the inert wastes that will be deposited in Phase 2 and for the monitoring of the wastes deposited historically in Phase 1.

We do not recognise an "ongoing lack of regulation at the site". A not yet operational landfill, such as Grange Landfill Ltd's site at Droppingwell, would normally be inspected twice a year with 72 hours of regulatory time funded. In recognition of local concern we agreed with yourselves that we would allocate more resource to this site than would be normally expected and inspect the site at least once a quarter until further notice. We have been doing this and we have spent considerably more than the hours allocated in regulating the site already this year. Inspections have been undertaken diligently and professionally.

You refer to the various contacts that have taken place over an extended period between the Environment Agency, the Council, and residents. We have always made every effort to explain our decision making and to respond when those explanations have been challenged. We recognise that there is profound disagreement with our decision to grant the variation of the permit in 2016 but our position on this remains unchanged.

Yours sincerely



Mike Dugher
Director – Yorkshire Area