

Sent via email



Mr Michael Ryan

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Health Protection Agency

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8<sup>th</sup> June 2009

[www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)

email:  
Justin.mccracken@hpa.org.uk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dear Mr Ryan,".

**Proposed Incinerator at Harlescott**

Your email to Mr Philpin dated 28 May 2009, which refers to the Health Protection Agency, was copied to me. In my opinion you misrepresent the HPA's views provided to you in our letter of 1 May 2008 and I wish to re-emphasise our position.

The HPA considers that modern well-run incinerators are likely to pose only a very small and probably undetectable risk to health. This is because they have a very small impact on pollution levels locally or at a distance. In assessing risk, we take into account not only the toxicity of the compounds concerned but, very importantly, the likely concentrations to which people may be exposed.

Furthermore, the reason that we have not studied 'the rates of illness or premature deaths at electoral ward level around any incinerator', is that the number of people around an incinerator is too small to detect whether or not the incinerator is having an impact on health. Such studies need to be able to distinguish any influence of the incinerator (which is expected to be extremely small because the contribution to pollution concentrations is extremely small) from the many other factors that influence rates of illness or premature deaths.

I hope you find this explanation helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Justin McCracken".

Justin McCracken  
Chief Executive