



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01563

Name of petitioner

Doreen Goldie on behalf of Avonbridge and Standburn Community Council

Petition title

Sewage sludge spreading

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ban the use of sewage sludge on land and to look for alternative acceptable methods of disposal as adopted in other European countries.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

A door to door collection of 1300+ objection/concern letters were submitted to Falkirk Council. Complaints and concerns were also passed to the Environmental Health Department, Falkirk Council and SEPA.

Attended planning appeal meetings and organised meetings with Angus MacDonald MSP and SEPA respectively.

Sent letters raising our concerns to Angus MacDonald MSP, Michael Matheson MSP, Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Margaret Mitchell MSP, Richard Lochhead MSP, Michael Connarty MP, Douglas Millican (Chief Executive of Scottish Water), Scottish Water, SEPA, National Farmers Union, SFQC, Mary Pitcaithly (Chief Executive of Falkirk Council), Director of Development Services Falkirk Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, Health and Safety Executive, Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals, RSPB, SSPCA and the Food Standards Authority.

Petition background information

A number of Community Councils in the Falkirk area have come together to raise awareness and our concerns with the current legislation covering the issue of sewage sludge application to land in Scotland. Over the past number of years, the Falkirk area has been blighted by this practice, local people are having their lives made a misery with the stench, existing health problems, especially lung conditions, are being made worse from the spreading of sewage sludge. Heavy traffic movements through the communities, collecting and delivering the sewage sludge and sewage sludge spillage on public highways is not acceptable.

We are of the opinion that the current legislation is not fit for purpose and leaves the process open to possible abuse. The lack of consistent and rigorous enforcement by the statutory bodies of current legislative powers means the present approach is inadequate. We are concerned for public health, contamination of water courses,

contamination of soils, and animals grazing on treated land potentially leading to contaminants entering the human food chain.

We are asking for this process to be banned outright and that alternative acceptable methods of disposal be adopted in line with other European countries. Urgent attention and investment is required to deal with the increasing amount of sewage.

This petition has been submitted despite the Government's recent announcement that it will review its policy on this issue because, at this stage, it is unclear whether the Government will conduct a public consultation as part of its policy review.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/sewagesludge>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

1300

Closing date for collecting signatures online

15 / 04 / 2015

Comments to stimulate online discussion

If you have been affected by the spreading of sewage sludge, or wish to make comment regarding this, put your comments online.