

PE1563/H

Petitioner Email of 30 November 2015

Dear Chris

Our response to Petition PE1563 is as follows.

No correspondence in relation to PE1563 has been made available to us, from the Scottish Government, to consider. We wish to record our disappointment and regret at being denied the opportunity to fully and extensively contribute to the Review at this stage.

We attended a multi agency meeting on the 17 March 2015 at SEPA in Stirling, where it was agreed that public consultation would be forthcoming in relation to this matter. This has not happened.

It is for this reason we ask the Petitions Committee to continue Petition PE1563 to ensure we are afforded the opportunity to fully consider the Review's comments and/or its recommendations.

It is evident from the SEPA response dated 2 November 2015 that there are numerous companies involved in the process, distribution and end uses of sewage sludge.

Despite this being a regulated industry, it appears that much enforcement is by self-policing, which in many instances results in none at all.

The spreading of sewage sludge is of fundamental concern to those members of the public afflicted by it. Given that the spreading of sludge has increased by 100% in under a decade in Scotland and no stakeholder organisation apparently knows the quantities, the source of the material or the contents as no proper records are kept. We feel this industry is not being afforded the serious attention it deserves to bring about a realistic, acceptable method of disposal for the long-term benefits to our environment and our communities.

The widespread bad working practices which have come to light in this industry during our investigations, one can only assume that contamination of soils in Scotland will have occurred, thus leading to degradation of the soil and known contaminants must surely be entering our food chain. We have even been informed of farmers spreading while livestock is present in the fields, this should not be happening.

This cheap method of fertilisation affects people's health and well-being and has no place in a country renowned for its Quality Assured Produce.

The review of legislation must guarantee to meet the exact requirements necessary to protect the public, animals, watercourses, aquatic life, wildlife and our environment.

The current legislation will never meet these requirements.

Finance is known to be available from the EU to assist in the development of modern disposal methods in a variety of ways in line with methods adopted by our European partners.

Doreen Goldie