

PE1563/O

Petitioner Email of 20 September 2016

Please find below our response to the Scottish Governments letter dated 28 July 2016, from Gary Grey.

1. We maintain the use of sewage sludge needs overhaul and review.
2. The Scottish Government appear to be deliberately missing the point.
3. In February the Report issued recommended a new independent investigation be carried out into the effects of the use of sewage sludge on agricultural land.

Has this been carried out?

4. The Report agreed a public consultation would take place regarding their recommendations and we would have the opportunity to meet the review team to discuss in detail our concerns and research.

This has not happened.

5. The regulatory framework referred to and initiated by Richard Lochhead MSP related only to 'odour' which is completely useless and ineffective.

6. The improvement of legislation refers only to 'odour', which again is completely useless.

There has never been any explanation as to why only odour was identified as the main focus of the Review with no consideration as to the contamination issues which are of far greater concern.

Odour is merely a consequence as appose to a cause.

7. If SEPA is to be the new sole regulatory body they require considerably more resources. SEPA cannot carry out their current obligations and the public have no faith in their regulatory ability. It is also our understanding SEPA's funding has recently been cut.

On the basis of the above comments it is our belief the whole review process to date has been a complete waste of public money and a huge waste of time, money and effort on our part.

We have been extremely disappointed with the attitude of the Scottish Government and their officials throughout this process over the last 2 years.

Their responses have been disingenuous, they have on occasion been dismissive and disinterested and overall we feel the gravity of the situation has failed to be appreciated.

Both Scottish Government and Scottish Water would have us believe the Scottish Waste industry regulatory system is under control, this is not the case. 88% of this industry is under private control and operates at will.

Despite all our efforts over the last few years nothing has changed.

The recommendations of the current Review will have no impact.

Yours

Doreen Goldie and Jo Hirst
Avonbridge and Standburn Community Council