



Peter Catchpole
Chairman
No Incinerator 4 Horsham Community Group

22 February 2023

Thank you for your letter and your supportive comments about our investment in offshore wind and photovoltaic generation in the UK. These investments are part of our company's commitment to sustainable, clean energy wherever we operate in the world.

We believe the Centre for Horsham Energy Recovery (CHER) project is an important part of that strategy. We are grateful to you for making us aware of your concerns, and we will do our best to address each point you make in your letter of 16th February.

You argue the UK is in danger of having significantly too much energy from waste capacity. However, this issue was examined in detail by the Planning Inspectorate during its public inquiry on the Horsham facility in October and November 2019.

In his Appeal Decision notice of 27th February 2020, the planning inspector set out his reasons for granting permission, and specifically addressed the issue of energy from waste capacity in West Sussex.

The decision notice says that rather than overcapacity, the West Sussex Waste Local Plan (WLP) in fact identifies a shortfall totalling 270,000 tonnes per annum.

The planning inspector also cited more recent evidence from West Sussex County Council which confirms there remains a shortfall in non-inert recovery capacity. The inspector concluded that if the WLP strategy's aims of net self-sufficiency and zero net waste to landfill is to be achieved there remains a "significant shortfall" in recovery capacity. He confirms the facility at Horsham is consistent with the aims of local and national waste management policy.

Central government policy on energy from waste is outlined in [Our waste, our resources: a strategy for England](#) which was published in December 2018. This sets out how the UK government plans to eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050.

The document says: 'Incineration currently plays a significant role in waste management in the UK, and the Government expects this to continue.'

Another issue you raise in your letter is the impact of energy from waste on recycling, and the need to invest more in waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

CHER will only accept waste after all economically viable and practical recycling has taken place. Without the facility, much of this waste would be exported to Europe or end up in landfill. Transporting waste overseas would increase carbon emissions, while landfill disposal contributes to methane emissions, which are known to be among the most harmful greenhouse gases.

Qair Environnement SAS

Paris office: 155, boulevard Haussmann - 75008 Paris , France- T: +33 (0) 1 79 35 67 10

Registered address: @7Center - Immeuble l'@ttis - 521, rue Georges Méliès - 34000 Montpellier, France

880 870 217 RCS Montpellier

www.qair.energy

It is likely there will always be some residual waste which is difficult or impossible to recycle, and efficient, modern energy recovery facilities are an excellent way to dispose of this material while generating renewable energy.

Qair believes recycling and energy from waste are fully complementary activities. The company has made a substantial investment in recycling in the UK by taking over Britaniacrest and its Hookwood recycling centre.

In addition, we have placed an order for £3.15 million to Kiverco (Northern Ireland) for a new waste sorting line at Hookwood to increase the facility's capacity to recycle waste.

These investments demonstrate Qair's commitment to supporting the circular economy. You are right to point out the need for an increase in the UK's recycling capacity, and we are pleased we are in a position to contribute to those efforts.

Qair will continue to play an important part in increasing the UK's recycling rates. Investing in projects like CHER will also provide clean and secure sources of energy for households and businesses.

In your letter, you draw attention to decisions of the Welsh and Scottish Parliaments in relation to energy from waste. However, because the CHER project is outside those jurisdictions and different considerations apply in relation to capacity and recycling issues, we do not feel those decisions are directly relevant to our work in West Sussex.

Thank you once again for letting us know about your concerns, we hope we have been able to reassure you about our strategy and our commitment to a sustainable future through investment in recycling and clean energy. Please get in touch if we can help further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luc Valaize', written over a light grey horizontal line.

Luc Valaize
Managing Director Qair Environment