

CLP Meeting 18 Notes - Appendix 1

Response from PHE to questions put by Neil Goudie of EA on behalf of Wootton PC:

Public Health England's (PHE) position is that modern, well run and regulated municipal waste incinerators are not a significant risk to public health. While it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects from these incinerators completely, any potential effect for people living close by is likely to be very small.

This view is based on detailed assessments of the effects of air pollutants on health and on the fact that these incinerators make only a very small contribution to local concentrations of air pollutants. This is supported by the findings of the Small Area Health Statistics Unit (SAHSU) study on incinerators published in 2019.

PHE continually reviews its advice in light of new substantial research on the health effects of incinerators published in peer-reviewed journals. To date, PHE is not aware of any evidence that requires a change in the position.

The PHE position statement is available to read here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/municipal-waste-incinerators-emissions-impact-on-health>

Further information on the SAHSU study can be found at the following link: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/191653/major-study-finds-conclusive-links-health/>

The reference to 'detailed assessments' in their reports relates to the large body of epidemiological evidence and studies on the health effects of air pollutants that exists. A summary of this health evidence is presented Health Matters: Air pollution (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-air-pollution>) from PHE.

The pollutants from incinerators are the same as the pollutants that are covered in these studies. There are many different sources of air pollution including industrial processes, road traffic, energy generation industries, agriculture. From national statistics, the contribution of emissions to air to made by incinerators is very small in comparison to other emission sources.