

Sharon Hodgson MP
Member of Parliament for Washington and
Sunderland West
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: MPNE371
Your ref: ANON/AGH/SH
Date: 29 January 2018

Dear Mrs Hodgson

ISSUE: Rolton Kilbride planning application due diligence

Thank you for copying us into your letter of 22 January 2018, addressed to Sunderland City Council, regarding the council's determination of the planning application. Your letter mentions the health and safety of the public from the proposed development and so I thought it would be useful to comment on our role in regulating the site.

The operation of the proposed development would be regulated by the Environment Agency through an environmental permit. Please note that we have yet to receive an application for an environmental permit for this development or hold pre-application discussions.

Before operating the proposed development, the operator will have to apply for a bespoke Installation environmental permit. In carrying out our assessment of an application, we must ensure that the proposed activity will not cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health. The looks at the risks posed by the proposed activity and includes an assessment of the impacts of emissions from the installation in relation to:

- Emissions to air from the treatment process, and the relevant Air Quality Standards;
- Potential amenity issues, such as noise and odour caused by activities at the site. (Please note that it does not include the potential impacts that may occur from activities outside the site boundary, such as transport movements and noise).

Our assessment of a permit application looks at whether environmental controls will be in place if the operator has demonstrated they are competent to meet their legal obligations to comply with the permit conditions. When assessing this competency requirement, we consider whether:

- the operator's management system is adequate;
- the operator's technical competence adequate;
- the operator has a poor record of compliance with previous regulatory requirements or relevant environmental convictions, and
- the operator's financial competence is adequate.

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We consider financial information of the applicant/operator where it is relevant to our assessment of financial competence to operate the installation. An application would require information on whether any relevant person (defined as including applicant, partner, director, manager, company secretary or any similar officer or employee as appropriate) has current or past bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings against them. We would also consider director disqualifications.

Further guidance on environmental permitting is available on our website at:
www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/environmental-permits.

If you would like to discuss this letter with me further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Fletcher', written in a cursive style.

Jamie Fletcher
Area Environment Manager