

**Cllr Simon Tagg**

Email: [Simon.Tagg@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.Tagg@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)

**Our Ref:** 27924

**Your Ref:** CST307a

**Date:** 20 August 2025

**Gordon Mole**

Email: [Gordon.Mole@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](mailto:Gordon.Mole@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk)

Dear Cllr Tagg and Mr Mole

### **Walleys Quarry – Resolution of Full Council**

Thank you for your letter of 4 August 2025 regarding Walleys Quarry Landfill site (“the site”).

I am pleased that you welcome the work the Environment Agency has arranged to carry out at the site, and its beneficial effect. Levels of hydrogen sulphide detected at all the Mobile Monitoring Facilities around the site have remained below the World Health Organisation (WHO) odour annoyance guideline value since 24 March 2025. I am also very aware of the significant reduction in odour report numbers from the surrounding community.

We have made considerable progress in the work to remove risks of serious pollution from the site following its disclaimer by the liquidators of Walleys Quarry Ltd. Works are continuing to remedy defects in the temporary capping and related infrastructure, to prevent fugitive emissions of landfill gas. We have completed important engineering works within the remaining landfill void area to address slope instability, to improve gas capture and ensure separation of clean surface water from leachate. This was a significant milestone, and our contractors continue to make positive progress on site.

The future of the site is a complex issue, which will require a multi-agency approach, and I welcome the council’s continued commitment to this. We will take part in discussions with Government and strategic coordinating group (SCG) partners as necessary in developing a long-term plan for the site, including funding arrangements. These conversations have already begun. Officers in West Midlands have informed me of the meeting with partners on 19 June 2025, and recent SCG meetings. We have consistently affirmed the need to work together collaboratively for the benefit of the community.

In discussions we have made it clear that the Environment Agency’s powers are limited to those set out in the legislation. We are arranging for steps to be taken to remove a risk of serious pollution, in accordance with discretionary powers under Regulation 57(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR). The Environment Agency is not operating the landfill – the site has no operator and there is no longer an environmental permit against which to regulate compliance. In order to fund works to date, the Environment Agency has used the Financial Provision (FP) provided under the permit. This provision is limited and, in the absence of an operator or permit, it will no longer be topped up following use for the purposes of our powers under Regulation 57 EPR.

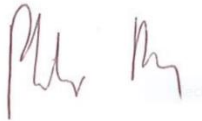
The Environment Agency's powers do not extend to site restoration in the terms contemplated in the planning permission. Compliance with the requirements of the planning permission is a matter for Staffordshire County Council, as the waste planning authority.

Each partner will, of course, need to consider and address its own funding requirements for the exercise of its specific statutory powers. We understand, and are committed to, raising the need for funding with Government, and ensuring that the costs associated with restoration of the site are fully understood. Nonetheless, we will continue to arrange for steps to be taken to remove risks of serious pollution under our discretionary powers as discussions about funding proceed.

I trust this reassures you of our ongoing commitment.

If you would like to discuss this matter further Ian Jones, West Midlands Area Director, will be happy to talk with you. You can contact Ian at [ian.jones@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:ian.jones@environment-agency.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Duffy', is positioned above the printed name and title.

**Philip Duffy**  
Chief Executive, Environment Agency