



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Mary Creagh CBE MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Nature

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577
E: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk
W: gov.uk/defra

Cllr Simon Tagg, Council Leader
Gordon Mole, Chief Executive
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
Castle House, Barracks Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 1BL
Angela.Hodkinson@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

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18 September 2025

Dear Cllr Tagg and Mr Mole,

Thank you for your letter of 4 August to the former Secretary of State about Walleys Quarry in Newcastle-under-Lyme. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area and apologise for the delay in doing so.

I was pleased to read Philip Duffy's letter to you of 20 August. I welcome the progress that has been made on the landfill site. I have been in close contact with the Member of Parliament from Newcastle-under-Lyme so that this disgraceful situation is finally sorted, and the lessons are learned to prevent such incidents in future. Defra officials will of course continue to be part of the discussions regarding the long-term future of the site.

I acknowledge the vote of the elected members at the Council meeting on the 23 July to call for a public inquiry and to call on the Environment Agency (EA) to protect the residents of Newcastle-under-Lyme from the risk of pollution or harm both present and future.

My position has not changed in respect of granting a public inquiry since my letter to Cllr Tagg of 4 October 2024. The EA has complied with environmental law and has fulfilled its statutory duties in regulating Walleys Quarry and its ongoing management of the site to prevent the risk of pollution or harm. I am not convinced of the benefits of holding such an inquiry and believe that our efforts are best focussed on addressing the problems at the site.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact the former Secretary of State about this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

MARY CREAGH CBE MP

Enclosed: Tagg - 27924