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**BIRR MEDI CENTRE**  
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY  
26 JAN 2005

**Dr. Patrick mcGovern**  
D.C.H., D.R.C.O.G., M.R.C.G.P.  
24/1/2005

**Practice Nurses:**  
Jacqueline mcGovern RGN, B.N.S.

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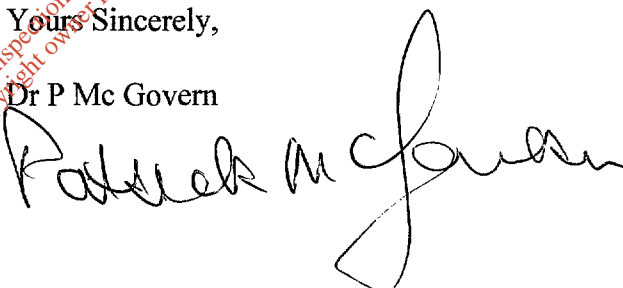
Re : Public concerns of health risks in Coolross,Rathcabbin,Roscrea,Co.Tipperary  
area

Dear Sir or Madam,

I enclose a copy sent today to Dr Kelleher, Director of Public  
for the Midwest area expressing my concerns re potential health risks in the Coolross  
and Rathcabbin area..I would value any urgent opinions and assessments you may  
already have on file.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr P Mc Govern



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Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Environmental Enforcement  
Received 26 JAN 2005  
Initials: JB

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***Practice Nurses:***  
***Jacqueline mcGovern RGN, B.N.S.***

24/1/2005

Re : Public concerns of health risks in Coolross,Rathcabbin ,Roscrea,Co.Tipperary area.

Dear Dr Kelleher,

I wish to seek your assistance in relation to concerns expressed to me by residents in the above –Coolross, Rathcabbin area.This is in relation to possible risks arising from a recycling compost plant in the vicinity. Reports have emanated in regard to alleged foul odours and discharges from the facility .

In response to these concerns I visited the area today at 12.45 hours -24/1/2005. On driving to the area I could detect a very foul odour from the village of Rathcabbin –a distance of approximately 2 miles ,all the way to the area and for approximately 1 mile further on..During all of this time I noticed a smarting effect on my conjunctiva with resultant epiphora effect .

Running along the roadway and adjacent to the composting facility of Shannon Vermicompositing I noticed large pools of stagnant dark fluid – within 100 metres of the home of Mr Bernard White –a patient of this practice who has expressed concerns re possible health risks to himself and others in the area.

I believe environmental health have been consulted in relation to matters in the direct vicinity . However in view of what I experienced at first hand personally today I would be grateful if your Public Health Dept.,could advise me of the following so I may be aware of the potential risks to my patients in the area .

- 1 . List of materials , substances and processes used in the facility
- 2 Reports of analysis of adjacent soil ,water and in particular air analysis
- 3 Any known public health reports of increased incidence of disease / illnesses in the locality or any suspicions of increased ill health effects which could assist in further observations.

4 Analysis of water sources in the area in particular in view of the location of the area of Coolross being elevated and a significant water run off towards the Shannon which is visible from the area and is approximately 2 miles distant.

5 Reports of any analysis of vegetation in the vicinity –I am especially concerned of any possible contaminants in vegetables and grasses which would directly and indirectly enter the food chain.

I am particularly indebted to you for your assistance in this complex matter and especially in your role as Director of Public Health .As far as I can surmise you would be the point of greatest access to the above information . When I have the information at hand I should then be in a position to advise my patients and other concerned of the possible health risks associated with this type of facility .I would also be more aware of the possible direct hazards involved and with this information be in a BEST PRACTICE position in relation to possible cause and effect of local health problems.

In view of what I personally experienced at first hand in relation to the severity of noxious odours and their resultant health effects I wish enquire re the advisability and perhaps the feasibility of relocating those potentially at risk of ill health or ill effects in the direct vicinity until a comprehensive public health risk analysis has been completed. I appreciate this may take a considerable length of time and resources .However it is my opinion that those directly affected should be protected by the necessary statutory bodies whose responsibility relates to protection of public health .

I wish to thank you for your attention and would appreciate any advice ,assistance and expertise you could offer on this important health matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Patrick Mc Govern,

cc. Mr Frank Gleeson,Environmental Health Dept.,HSE Mid West area,  
KenyonSt.,Nenagh,

Environmental Protection Agency,PO Box 3000,Johnstown Castle Estate,Wexford

Mr Frank O Halloran,Environment Section,Machinery Yd.,Limerick Rd.,North  
Tipperary Co.Council,Nenagh,Co Tipperary

Mr Bernard White,Coolross,Rathcabbín,Roscrea,Co,Tipperary.