

30, Highfield  
 Drogheda  
 Co. Louth  
 13<sup>th</sup> March '05

The Inspector E. P. A.

Oral Hearing re Incinerator in Carrinstown

My name is Anne Walsh, I am a mother, a grandmother and a native of Drogheda.

I first became aware that the Government were anxious to introduce incineration in Ireland about five years ago. Having listened to doctors and scientists from near and far who know what they are talking about I learned that it would be very bad for our green Ireland, healthwise especially.

At that time we were protesting against incineration anywhere in Ireland. I had no idea it was going to come to just outside Drogheda, I certainly had no idea it was going to come to such an unsuitable site for so many reasons as have been pointed out during this Oral Hearing and the last Oral Hearing. Even the inspector from An Bord Pleanála agreed it is not a suitable site.

I just cannot get over the selection of this site and the fact that it is still on the agenda after all that has been said, it defies logic.

I really am not a "Not in my back yard" protester. People have mentioned the dust emissions from Cement Ltd. chimneys. I hope this dust is not harmful. Cement is limestone which is totally different to the unknown mix of materials which the Incinerator will burn, you have been hearing a lot about this this week.

The only reason I can see for this site to be selected is because it is so close to Cement Ltd (another heavy duty industry) and if there are any environmental problems later it may be hard to prove who is to blame. This is just my own suspicion.

On looking at the way Government very undemocratically took the decision out of the hands of the Co. Councils and the way the Inspector from A B P was outvoted it looks like they are very determined to go ahead with this no matter what, it would seem they made up their minds a long time ago. I know they had meetings with Indaver.

There has been no real effort by the Government or local authorities to provide us with good recycling facilities. Surely this should come long before Incineration. When you stand back and look at it, the whole thing smells to the high heavens.

In the meantime the attitude in Ireland to the three R's has improved tremendously. I can remember a

high ranking politician saying in conversation that poor people would not recycle. How insulting.

On RTE on Friday last after the Six O'clock News there was a feature about a Gael Scoil in Breg showing the school etc and the Headmaster said they had a very strong emphasis on recycling. This type of thing is happening all over the country in National & Secondary schools.

With the right incentive and the provision of facilities our waste problem (I know it is a big problem) could be very much reduced and of course packaging etc. Should be greatly reduced in the first place. The always zero waste trial was very successful, so improvement I think in a short space of time.

It is just not fair to our future generations to foist an €85 million monster of an Incinerator on them. They are the ones who will suffer as a result of this decision even though they will be better disciplined in the implementation of the three R's etc. Once this thing goes ahead it will have to be used for 30-40 years and there is no way it will or can be monitored properly, we don't have the resources. We will definitely let them down in a big way if we go ahead with this. There are too many highly dangerous possibilities.

We should be given a fair chance to show the three R's can work. It is very unsafe & unfair to dabble with

peoples health. If one has a child that is born with something wrong with it and if it is something major, the lives of the whole family changes not to mention the tragedy for the child.

This part of the East Coast has the highest incidence of certain types of Cancer in Ireland, there is no way an Incinerator with all its Dioxans should be introduced. I would say there is hardly a family in the area which has not been affected by Cancer.

Lots of people thought the Plastic Bag project would not work and the Smoking Ban would not work and look how well they've worked. What about the bullheaded insistence to go ahead with Electronic Voting even though many experts said it would not work, look at the waste involved there and we still have to pay for the huge cost of storing them. At least nobody's health is at risk, it's only money.

I think there never was a truer saying than "The health is the wealth". Well if this goes ahead, we may not have our health and Indaver will have the wealth. It is just not worth it.

You have been listening carefully to a lot of experts on both sides. I am appealing to you to use your integrity and think hard before you give your decision. I know you will do this of course.

Even if it could be postponed for a number of years to give us a real chance to show what can be done given the correct facilities. Perhaps, after everything else has been given its best chance, there will still be a waste problem (I don't think there will) well maybe by then there will be a healthier alternative to vaccination.

Like the Inspector for An Bord Pleanála, you have to go back to a board that I suspect is pro vaccination, pro government policy.

They have not listened to the very strong valid arguments made at this Oral Hearing by people who have great knowledge and experience in this field, People who have nothing to gain other than the salving of their conscience by making the best effort they can to convey to you how strongly they feel about how wrong it would be to go ahead with this incinerator.

I feel this is a David and Goliath situation. We are just ordinary people, (who) with the help of scientific people who do not have the resources Indaver have. Some of our main volunteers have done such a lot of work and given very generously of their time and energy, just because they really believe this is wrong and they must put up an argument against it. Miracles do happen, I am praying for one of those.

If this goes ahead it will be a travesty, an absolute

travesty. We don't need incineration, the waste problem can be overcome without it. It just takes a more holistic approach. "Where there's a will there's a way".

Please give us a chance to show you.

Perhaps the local election results have something to do with the peoples feelings on incineration.

Yours Sincerely  
Anne Walsh

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P.S. Like so many others, I would like to have attended this Oral Hearing fully, unfortunately I could only get off work for some of the time.