

**Our ref:**

**Your ref:**

**Date:** 14 March 2022



Aaron Bell MP

By e-mail only: [aaron.bell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:aaron.bell.mp@parliament.uk)

Castle House  
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Dear Aaron

### **Complaint regarding Environment Agency Enforcement of Walleys Quarry**

In March 2021 the Council wrote to the Secretary of State, George Eustace, to raise concerns about the regulatory performance of the Environment Agency with respect to Walleys Quarry. In response, Minister Rebecca Pow directed us to the Environment Agency's complaints process. At the time, we did not feel that this was an appropriate avenue to follow as it appears to be a process more geared to addressing the concerns of individual residents. As the problems associated with the Walleys Quarry landfill site are still ongoing a year on from this initial letter, in February this year we decided to follow this advice and submit a formal complaint to the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, Sir James Bevan.

Sir James' response to our complaint is attached. In this response Sir James largely dismisses our complaint, but there is nothing within the response to suggest that any investigation, or interrogation of the facts, has been undertaken to properly examine and consider the issues which we have raised. In effect, Sir James is sitting as judge and jury on his own organisation's regulatory performance. The idea that our community can continually be subject to the foul odours and associated health risks for over a year and that this reflects the best that the Environment Agency's enforcement efforts can achieve seems preposterous.

I am writing therefore to seek your support in escalating this complaint to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman. This appears to be the only route available to us to escalate this matter, but it is a process that we need you, as our Member of Parliament, to follow on our behalf.

I trust that you will support us in this crucial next step to deliver the resolution to this awful situation to which the Prime Minister has committed.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Simon Tagg  
Leader