

Alan White
Leader of the County Council
Councillor for Lichfield – Lichfield Rural East

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Nigel Bowen, Chief Executive
RED Industries
Head Office
Borough House
Berkeley Court
Borough Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme
ST5 1TT

My Ref: AW / TK 148

Your Ref:

Date: 14 May 2021

Dear Mr Bowen

As the newly re-elected Leader of Staffordshire County Council I write to express both my complete dismay and anger at your current stewardship of the Walleys Quarry Landfill site.

A recent statement made by your company states: “We recognise that we are hosted by the local communities in which we operate and are acutely aware of their concerns...”. Unfortunately, your actions appear to contradict your words. You have breached gas emission limits; key remedial work has been required of you rather than done voluntarily; and even after the most recent capping has been completed, the odours continue and yet you have now decided to renew acceptance of waste deliveries while the issue is unresolved.

It seems to me that there is a general reluctance to acknowledge the responsibility of Red Industries in this. A recent claim by you that disused mine workings may be responsible for the odours coming from groundwater pollution has not been supported by any submitted evidence and is now contradicted by the Coal Authority, and I further wonder why the name of the site operator has recently changed from that of Red Industries to Walleys Quarry Ltd at a time of national interest in this site.

The residents of Newcastle are suffering. Not only physically, but mentally: the daily dread of coming home from work and wondering if the smell will be in your house, or going to sleep fearing you will be woken in the night by this stench is hard to imagine unless you are experiencing it, and they have my utmost sympathy and my determination to see this sorted.

You may have a licence to accept waste to Walleys Quarry, but I would urge you to reflect on your moral responsibilities as well as your legal responsibilities. You need to take urgent action to resolve the odour, and to reimpose the suspension of deliveries until you can demonstrate that the odour problem is permanently resolved.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan White', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alan White
Leader of the Council