

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

2 February 2023

Dear Edward

## **Independent Review of the Role of Incineration in Scotland's Waste Hierarchy - Second Report on Decarbonisation of Residual Waste Infrastructure in Scotland**

I am writing to advise the Committee that the second and final report of the independent review of the role of incineration in the waste hierarchy, undertaken by Dr Colin Church, will be published on 3 February. The second report, Decarbonisation of Residual Waste Infrastructure in Scotland, will be available from 09:30 here:  
<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781805254942>.

As you are aware, Scottish Government commissioned an independent review of the role of incineration in Scotland's waste hierarchy, led by Dr Colin Church, with the aim of ensuring that the management of residual waste in Scotland aligns with our greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

You will recall that Dr Church delivered his first report in April 2021, which focused on Scotland's residual waste treatment capacity requirements. Given the time available for the first report, Dr Church made provisional recommendations on options to decarbonise the existing residual waste treatment infrastructure in Scotland, pending completion of further analysis that the Review commissioned. Dr Church agreed to my request to extend his term as independent Chair to oversee this important strand of work.

Dr Church delivered his second report to me on 15 December 2022, which considers options to decarbonise the Residual Waste Infrastructure in Scotland. You will see that Dr Church has confirmed his two previous provisional recommendations from his first report and sets out nine new recommendations. In developing these recommendations, Dr Church used evidence gathered through a wider call for evidence, undertaken ahead of the first report, and additional stakeholder engagement sessions and separate meetings specifically for the second report.

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We are carefully considering the Scottish Government's response to Dr Church's recommendations, and I intend to publish our response to the Report in March.

Kind regards

**LORNA SLATER**

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
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