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Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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5 May 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 –
Scottish Government Response**

I am writing to advise the Committee that the Scottish Government's response to the second and final report of the independent review of the role of incineration in the waste hierarchy, undertaken by Dr Colin Church, was published this morning. The response to the second report, Decarbonisation of Residual Waste Infrastructure in Scotland, is available here: <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781805258346>

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 2022, which focused on Scotland's residual waste treatment capacity requirements. Given the time available for the first report, Dr Church made twelve full recommendations on the role of incineration in our waste hierarchy and two provisional recommendations on options to decarbonise the existing residual waste treatment infrastructure in Scotland. These were provisional 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. In the Scottish Government's response to the first report, we responded fully to the twelve recommendation and committed to respond in full to the provisional recommendations once this further work on options to decarbonise residual waste infrastructure had been completed.

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Dr Church's second report, which considers options to decarbonise the Residual Waste Infrastructure in Scotland, was delivered to me in December 2022 and published on 3 February 2023.

The second report sets out nine new recommendations, and confirms the two provisional recommendations made in the first report, which are also related to decarbonisation. In the Scottish Government response, I have responded to all of the Review's recommendations to outline Scottish Government's position and any further action we intend to take.

I am happy to discuss Scottish Government's response further with the Committee.

Kind regards

LORNA SLATER

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