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Dean Lockhart MSP
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Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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9 May 2022

Dear Dean

Independent Review of the Role of Incineration in Scotland's Waste Hierarchy

I am writing to advise the Committee that the Report of the independent review of the role of incineration in the waste hierarchy, undertaken by Dr Colin Church, will be published on 10 May on the Scottish Government website. It will be available from 09:30 here:

<http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781804353912/documents/>.

Dr Church submitted his report to me on 13 April. As you are aware from my recent letter, I decided to delay publication until after the local elections, given the potential for the Report's findings and recommendations to raise issues that could be of particular local interest. You will see from his report that Dr Church gathered information and evidence through:

- a Call for Evidence, which ran between 20 December and 21 February, attracting 56 responses;
- a series of 5 stakeholder events, which were attended by over 70 participants, including members of the public and representatives from the waste industry, local authorities, non-governmental organisations and community groups;
- invite-only roundtable discussions with four groups of representatives (from NGOs, local authorities, industry and trade bodies and other experts respectively); and
- separate meetings with a number of people who requested a more private conversation.

We are carefully considering Scottish Government's response to Dr Church's recommendations and I intend to provide an update to parliament in June and to publish our response to the Report. In the meantime, Dr Church has kindly offered to speak to the Committee on his report if that would be useful to the Committee.

The Committee will also be aware that a temporary notification direction was put in place during the review. This notification direction requires local authorities to notify Scottish

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ministers when they receive, and when they intend to approve, a planning application for an incineration facility. We intend to keep this notification direction in place until we determine our response to Dr Church's recommendations.

You will note that, in the time available for the Review, Dr Church has made provisional recommendations on options to decarbonise the existing residual waste treatment infrastructure in Scotland, pending completion of further analysis that the Review has commissioned. I have asked Dr Church to extend his term as independent Chair to oversee this important strand of work and will keep the Committee advised.

Kind regards

LORNA SLATER

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