

## Powerfuel Appeal

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**From:** Skinner, Helen <HELEN.SKINNER@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 12 December 2023 12:44  
**To:** paul.rogers [REDACTED]; Powerfuel Appeal; Felicity Hart; stoppwi [REDACTED];  
'Debbie Tulett'; Madeeha Akhtar  
**Subject:** FW: Portland Incinerator - objection

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon,

Please see the submission below.

Kind regards

Helen

**Helen Skinner** | Inquiries & Major Casework Team Leader

**The Planning Inspectorate**

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**From:** Lisa Anderson <>  
**Sent:** 12 December 2023 12:29  
**To:** Skinner, Helen <HELEN.SKINNER@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Portland Incinerator - objection

Dear Ms Skinner

I am unable to attend the meeting on Thursday 14 December as I will be en route to Barcelona accompanying a group of Under 16 year old sailors to an international regatta to represent Great Britain, so I hope that this written submission will be regarded in my place or can be read out by a proxy.

I live in Portland and I sit on the RYA Youth Racing Committee as a volunteer, to represent the interests of thousands of children and young people under the age of 23 engaged in sailing, ranging from children who just want to get out on the water to those who are pursuing the Olympic Pathway.

I also work as a volunteer for the UKLA, which is the organisation that arranges training and competitions in the UK for sailors of all ages in the ILCA (previously called Laser) class of boats.

Both the RYA and the UKLA focusses much of its training at the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy (known generally as WPNSA) which is where the Olympics were based in 2012 as a legacy asset and where all Junior, Youth, Class and Olympic sailing takes place.

To put this context, in 2023 alone the UKLA (being just one of circa 10 sailing classes) provided 1,723 training days (calculated as one sailor on one day) which was 599 sailors, predominantly in Portland WPNSA – the ILCAs alone spent over 60 days hosting organised events in 2023 in Portland, and in 2024 anticipate to spend many more as the ILCA National Championships are in Portland (as are the Topper National Championships and the Waszp National Championships in 2024); that is over 600 sailors.

In 2023 the other Junior and Youth sailing classes of the Optimist had their 400+ sailor National Championships in Portland, and the 29ers had 300 sailors at their National Championships and then their World Championships in Portland spread over 3 weeks; the 420s, Toppers and IQ Foils hosted similar days of training in Portland, with the RYA additionally hosting at least twice that amount as Regional Training Groups and Youth Squad over the year.

On rough estimates this would be as many as 10,000 sailing days a year for Junior and Youth sailors held in Portland. In addition to the Causeway bordering the Portland Harbour sailing area, much of the shore-based activities take place at RYA Portland House which is a purpose built training and residential block which is less than 50 metres away from Lerret Road. This is where much of the Junior and Youth physical exercise takes place, often on the area of grass immediately outside RYA Portland House.

The RYA have also just announced the construction of a new £4 million centre for British Sailing in Portland, which is due to complete in the summer of 2025. That will increase the numbers of Junior and Youth sailors in Portland even further as a centre of excellence, again using the outside training area adjacent to Lerret Road. This is great for Portland and great for sailing, but a real concern for the respiratory health of these young sailors who will be training only metres away from the polluting diesel lorries passing by 80 times each and every day.

There has already been much discussion about the air pollution that would be created from the incinerator, which will emit large quantities of carbon dioxide, with a range of between half a tonne to one tonne of carbon dioxide created from every tonne of waste incinerated, depending on its composition.

Whilst Powerfuel may claim that the incinerator may be able to filter out much of the emissions - which I doubt with respect to the PM 2.5 and PM10 particles - it cannot prevent the air pollution created by the 80 lorry movements per day which are anticipated in transporting the waste along the Causeway and Lerret Road to the incinerator, which is one lorry every 9 minutes travelling within 50 metres of the RYA Training Centre for Junior and Youth sailors seven days a week, between the hours of 7am and 7pm.

That is approximately 560 lorries per week, 2,480 per month and close to 30,000 lorry movements per year passing within 50 metres of the centre where 10,000+ children a year will be outside undertaking physical exercise, sailing, and breathing in lorry exhaust fumes.

Kings College and Imperial College in London have undertaken much research on the detrimental impact of fine particles in the air emitted from exhausts on the lungs of under 18 years olds, noting how diesel fumes could cause flare ups of respiratory symptoms such as asthma. Working on previous research that showed a strong association between air pollution from diesel exhausts and respiratory problems, their latest research adds to the growing body of evidence demonstrating the direct effects of air pollution on public health. Professor Terry Tetley from Imperial College's National Heart and Lung Institute said that their *"joint study helps to address the previously unknown effects of particulate air pollution on the public"*. This has a far higher impact on those with developing lungs such as the Under 18s, and those with underlying health issues. Professor Belvisi notes that *"Our work shows that particles from diesel exhausts can activate ion channels [which are responsible for the reflex events initiating common respiratory symptoms such as coughing and wheezing] stimulating the nerves in the lungs. This adds to the growing body of evidence demonstrating the direct effects of air pollution on public health. The main message needs to be about prevention."*

With this in mind, it would be reckless and I would suggest in breach of Dorset County Council's fiduciary duty to the general public (particularly the 10,000+ Junior and Youth sailors each year who will be 50 metres away from the circa 30,000 annual lorry movements emitting fine particulate air pollution as they pass by) to intentionally permit the construction of the incinerator with such obvious consequences. That is in addition to the fine particle air pollution that the incinerator itself will emit.

In addition to the detrimental impacts on Portland Castle as a historic building (with the tourism associated with that) and an Area of Outstanding National Beauty as the lorries pass by on the Causeway, along Lerret Road and at the Castletown Roundabout, I urge Dorset Planners to refuse the appeal for all the reasons cited above.

Lisa Anderson

Barrister-at-Law

RYA Youth Race Committee Member

UKLA Training Organiser

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