

Statement to the Powerfuel Public Inquiry, Portland, 14 Dec 2023.

My name is Tony Walter, and I live just up the road on this unique island. Portland residents feel decisions are being made about them without any consultation or consideration by Powerfuel and, now in 2023, also by the Home Office. Both the incinerator and the refugee barge were ideas cooked up in private between Portland Port's management and powerful absentee interests. Not living on the island, they do not live with the consequences – other than reap the economic or political gains. In other words, Portlanders feel bullied.

This was amply demonstrated this Tuesday when the appellant's barrister grilled Dorset Council's expert witness on waste management for **5 hours**, using every trick in the book to undermine his credibility and in a manner that in any other context would be called *bullying*. It was certainly seen as bullying by islanders I spoke to who witnessed it that day. A collaborative approach to solving Dorset's waste management was the **last** thing on his mind. I cannot stress enough that this is not how we on Portland do things. We are not anti-business, far from it; we welcome businesses that **consult**, are **considerate** and are **locally accountable**.

Over many centuries, Portland's unusual land inheritance laws have produced independently minded islanders who **collaborate** to settle their differences over how best to run their island, often in the face of global forces. We do **not** take kindly to powerful external interests deciding what will happen on our island.

Not that we are narrowly provincial, far from it. Many of us are **deeply** concerned about the climate emergency, and would dearly love to see the island and Jurassic Coast host **tomorrow's**, rather than yesterday's, energy technologies – utilising our abundant wind, wave, and hydrogen storage capability.

For the sake of both **local democracy** and **the planet**, I trust that you, Sir, will recommend that the secretary of state **dismiss** this appeal.

Prof Tony Walter

24 Belle Vue Terrace, Fortuneswell, Portland DT5 1LD

