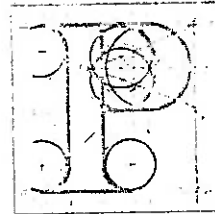


Our Case Number: ABP-318802-24

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Coimisiún
Pleanála**

Teachers of Colaiste Muire Secondary School
c/o Ellen O'Neill
Cobh
Co. Cork

Date: 24 November 2025

Re: Proposed development of a resource recovery centre (including waste-to-energy facility)
in Ringaskiddy, County Cork.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

The Commission will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the local authority and at the offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála when they have been processed by the Commission.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Commission's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission. Please quote the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin McGettigan
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737263p
PA04

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**Objection from teachers at Colaiste Muire Secondary School,
Cobh, Co. Cork**

We are a group of teachers in Colaiste Muire secondary School, Cobh, Co. Cork.

The following is a record of objections made by students and a member of the Board of Management to the oral hearing in 2016. The views expressed below highlight our concerns. Nothing has changed since 2016. We strongly object to this proposal and we request an oral hearing to provide us with the opportunity to have our concerns heard.

Thursday 28th April 2016

Objections from Board of Management and students (oral hearing 2016)

Introducing them was David Muldowney, from the Board of Management, who said the school has 600 students immediately downwind of the proposed site, and that there is an underlying fear of cancer in the area, considering the rates are 40% higher than in other parts of the country. He said the school has seen two beloved teachers dying as a result of cancer, and that his own daughter, who didn't smoke and participated in sport, died of lung cancer at thirty. He referenced a paper that described incinerators as "particulate generators".

The first student we heard was Scott Fitzgerald, a member of the Green Schools committee, who stated that our aim should be zero waste, and that we can reach that if New Zealand can. He described incineration as a "quick fix", and that adults

are the ones in a position of power but it's his generation that will live with their decisions.

Mikey Whelan started by saying how proud he is of Cork Harbour, but that from the committee meeting room window they can see the proposed site. He wished to express opposition to the incinerator on behalf of all generations.

Jason Morey questioned why Indaver wanted to build in the Harbour, and said he objected to it. He also called out the EPA, stating that they're supposed to be protecting the environment and that they're not doing their job.

Stefano Girasole began by asking whose responsibility it is for the deaths of those two young teachers. He said that it is a tradition in the Harbour to study at the NMCI, but who would want to if Indaver were next door? In referencing the master plans for Haulbowline Island and Spike Island, he said that tourism was what kept Cobh going during the recession, but who would want to visit with an incinerator there? "Indaver are not welcome," Stefano told those at the table opposite.

While listening to the students speak, I looked across to the senior counsel, and I wondered if he would still be doing this job for Indaver if that were his son or daughter objecting from across the floor?

We then heard from Abbie Mackessy, who stated in no unclear terms that she should be living life, and it shouldn't be her job to worry about this incinerator. She told us about parents of her friends who had died of cancer very recently, and reiterated that her school had lost two teachers in that way. She finished by saying she never wants to worry about opening her classroom window, and called for a study of the Cobh cancer cluster.

Matthew McCarthy said that Cork Harbour is beautiful, but it has been tainted by previous generations. He compared the long-term effects of incineration – particles in the air leading to cancer and other illnesses – and the short-term effects, which would be an explosion or accident. "Are we willing to let our future be put at risk?" he asked, finishing by claiming back the right to breathe clean air whenever we want.

Caitlin Durnin spoke on safety risks to be had, pointing out that the incinerator would be at the end of a peninsula near a heavily populated area, and that accidents *do* happen – "if it can happen in Belgium, it can happen here." She questioned if Indaver could guarantee the safety of the students, and if the emergency evacuation plan would really work. She told us that it's estimated that parts of Cork Harbour will be underwater in forty years, and referenced the WHO guidelines on site suitability the incinerator would break. Addressing the Inspector: "Please consider what we've said."

Euan Laffan, from the Green Schools committee, reminded us that when Indaver's Meath facility breached the licence, the EPA just changed the rules. He told us this is a huge concern, and asked, "Why should I trust the EPA?" He also spoke on Indaver's track record, and went on to ask why we need more incinerators when we already have two?

The final student to speak, Laura Stafford, said that she is on the student council, which she described as being like a little government within the school. (I could identify with that: I was elected to the school council in sixth class. I only remember one election promise: I would bring back show and tell.)

Laura said that when she pictures her future life, she pictures living in the Harbour, and she doesn't want that picture to be ruined by Indaver. She said she doesn't want the incinerator to be the reason for a family loss, and, becoming visibly moved, she asked Indaver, "Do the honourable thing and leave us alone."

The teacher accompanying them, Mary White, who coordinates the committee, explained her concerns to us. She said she's been working in Cobh since 1995, and she has previously taught in Cork and in some of the poorest countries in Africa, but in Cobh was where she found the highest cancer rates. As a teacher, she said, I have a duty of care to people and to my students. She called on the relevant authority to make it their absolute mission to protect the health of young people and to conduct a baseline health study into the cancer cluster.

She also called the proposed site unsuitable, adding that it defies logic, and the technology that would be used is outdated and has been outsmarted by new technology.

Daniel Walsh, Jennifer Buckley, Claire Murphy, Annette Sutton, Nicola Aherne, Leona Kelly, Veronica Wiseman, Carmel O'Shea.