



PRESS RELEASE: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMPANY STATEMENT

Following the accusations in recent media coverage, we would like to correct the inaccurate claims that have been made against the company.

HES has never stockpiled hundreds of tonnes of human body parts and dangerous waste at any of our sites throughout the UK. The amount of anatomical waste we collect in England each week only amounts to 1% of the overall tonnage of waste collected. Anatomical waste is not stored on any of our facilities for longer than is allowed by permitted guidelines.

All clinical waste is correctly stored, with anatomical waste kept in refrigerated units and not stored or driven around in vehicles, as has been claimed.

Our site in Normanton has reached a level where we have had to look at alternative storage and we have been working closely with stakeholders and other waste management companies to rectify this issue. To reiterate, at this time all waste on our sites is correctly stored and adheres to agreed guidelines.

Our licenced sites store mainly clinical waste collected from the NHS in strict accordance with the Environment Agency regulations. We have welcomed visits from the EA a number of times over the past few months and have pointed out to them that the amount of waste produced by the NHS for incineration, far outweighs the entire incineration capabilities of the UK and not just Healthcare Environmental Services. We are not the only company to feel the strain on our services, with many of our competitors continually breaching storage regulations.

All waste is contained and processed within licensed facilities in full cooperation with the relevant authorities. We remain dedicated to dealing with this national issue that affects all waste management companies and facilities within the UK.

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Since 2015, we have been notifying the Environment Agency, NHS and the UK Government about the need for investment in the ageing incineration network to deal with clinical waste. We last met with them in late September and reiterated our concerns. We are saddened that it has taken the involvement of the media to progress a dialogue with the authorities about the severity of the situation.

The contingency plans proposed by the government could result in the NHS suffering a number of waste management issues, which would be a major risk to public health.

HES have and are committed to serving our customers with a vital service. Without private waste management companies like HES, hospitals could be forced to turn away patients.

We have not had any notification of legal proceedings against the company as stated in reports.

As stated by The Department of Health in England, there is no risk to the public. All waste is stored in accordance with strict regulations.

Our main priority remains collecting and processing waste produced by the NHS and we welcome an open and honest dialogue with the government and the other stakeholders.

We continue to collect and correctly process waste from the NHS today and we look forward to meeting with all stakeholders to discuss how we can all move forward. HES is dedicated to resolving this issue, as and when incineration capacity becomes available.

JOINT STATEMENT FROM GARRY AND ALISON PETTIGREW

“Whilst the interest in this story hasn’t come as a shock to us, the vitriol and the accusations against us, the company and our team has.

“We have both have invested our life into the business along with over £2m of personal director’s loans, with no funding from any government institutions. The company employs almost 350 specialised staff, providing services to our customers on a 24/7 basis 365 days per year.

“The vital service that we provide is something that we are all proud of. We have a great team of people and we thank them at this difficult time.

“We started out in this business more than 20 years ago and we have enjoyed a close working relationship with officials from the various agencies throughout this time. We will continue to work with all involved until this UK wide issue is resolved.”

##Ends##

Notes to editors

1. For more information contact Graham McColl
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2. The statement will be available on our [media section](#) on our website
3. The company was founded in 1997 and employs almost 350 people across the UK.
4. The largest private medical waste business in the UK.
5. Operate 10 sites throughout the UK, including four in Scotland and six in England, operating 24/7, 365 days a year and service more than 40,000 locations.
6. The new £13m HQ is on a purpose-built 37 acres industrial eco park and represents Healthcare Environmental Group's commitment to reducing the UK's carbon footprint and ensuring that our customers benefit from a dedicated site to reduce waste and recover energy. The eco facility will not only treat a wide variety of different waste types but will ensure that these items are recovered in green energy and will **generate over two megawatts of power every hour**. This green energy will be used on site and will ensure that the site's needs will be virtually self-sufficient. The plant will also produce clean energy, which can be returned to the national grid. This means that other companies – such as industrial processes - will be able to use the power available from the site for their heating or energy requirements.