



Media release

December 13 2018

HES company statement on NHS Scotland waste collections

On December 4, 2018, HES was informed that its contracts with NHS Scotland (NHSS) – held for more than 15 years - were being terminated in April 2019. We were told that Scottish healthcare sites would be putting contingency plans in place until then, should we be unable to continue servicing, at which point a new Spanish contractor would take over.

HES offered to continue the service until April under another company within the group but was told by National Services Scotland (NSS) that this was not possible.

HES has made numerous requests to NHSS for an urgent meeting to ensure the continuation of service but has not had a response.

Contrary to reports in the media, HES did not withdraw its services from NHS Scotland sites and attempted to service several sites as contracted. However, after being refused access to a number of sites the decision was taken to stop servicing NHSS until a way forward was agreed.

HES managing director Garry Pettigrew said, “We were servicing NHS Scotland’s sites under a restricted service until we were refused access on Friday, and the constant threat of contingency plans being put into place affected our ability to maintain staffing levels. We had no choice but to stop the service. We offered to continue the collections under another company within the Healthcare Environmental Group but the NSS refused.

“I am still hopeful that we can continue to work with NHSS and Scotland’s waste will stay in Scotland and not be transported hundreds of miles to England. We believe that the new contractor’s proposal is based on taking the waste from Scotland and transporting it hundreds of miles to England for a minimum 40 weeks, increasing risk and resulting in the loss of over 150 skilled staff at our Scottish facilities.

“We have invested in the latest medical waste treatment and recycling facilities including incineration technology located just outside Glasgow in Shotts and the capacity to safely and securely process all of Scotland’s medical waste. I really hope we can find a solution before the hard winter months set in. As a company with more than 23 years’ experience, we know it is partnership working that ensures Scotland’s hospitals function properly.”

HES has set out its position on the medical waste backlog on its website –

<https://www.healthcareenv.com/the-truth>

Ends

Notes to editors:

- [The cost to the NHS in Yorkshire and Humber has trebled since the contracts were taken from HES](#)
- HES was established 22 years ago and employs almost 400 staff at seven UK depots.
- Its headquarters are in Shotts, Lanarkshire.
- It has invested £13m in the Shotts site to build a new [waste to energy](#) Pyrolysis facility that it is among the most advanced in the UK.
- HES is the only waste management company in the UK to invest in incineration capabilities in the last 30 years

Garry Pettigrew is available for media interviews. To arrange this, please contact:

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