Dagenham & Rainham Conservatives

Margaret Mullane MP,
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Margaret,

We are writing to urge you to take immediate action on behalf of Rainham residents who continue to suffer from frequent toxic fires at the illegal waste site on Launders Lane.

Dubbed the “Rainham Volcano”, this dangerous site poses a serious risk to public health by repeatedly polluting the air with toxic fumes. It also places a considerable burden on the public purse through the repeated deployment of firefighters and other emergency resources.

The Prime Minister recently announced government funding to clean up three more of the country’s most serious illegal waste sites. It is deeply disappointing—and difficult to understand—that Launders Lane was not included.

Why has the Labour government failed to address what is widely regarded as London’s worst illegal waste site? What more will it take for the government to act?

We are asking you to take the following specific steps:

1. Call for an urgent review of the decision to exclude Launders Lane and ask the government to publish the criteria used to select the sites receiving funding.
2. Inform residents what representations you made to the government before the funding announcement and publish, where possible, any relevant correspondence. We also ask you to clarify what representations the Mayor of London made on Rainham’s behalf.
3. Use your influence in Parliament and within the Labour Party to press for Launders Lane to be added to the government’s clean-up programme, or to secure an equivalent commitment to fund its remediation.

If you advocated for Launders Lane and the government rejected the case, residents deserve to know why. If no representations were made before the announcement, we ask you to acknowledge this and take urgent action now.

With a Labour government, a Labour Mayor of London and a Labour MP representing the area, residents reasonably expect the decisive action that the Labour Party has promised them.

We are ready to work constructively with you to make this happen. In the interests of transparency and keeping residents informed, we will be publishing this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Matej Travnicek
Chairman, Dagenham & Rainham Conservatives

Sade Adeeko
Rainham Conservative Action Team Lead

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