

**Baroness Sheehan**

Chair, House of Lords Environment & Climate Change Committee  
House of Lords  
SW1A 0PW

22 May 2026

Dear Baroness Sheehan,

**High priority waste sites list**

I am writing to inform you that we have published the list of our high priority waste sites, following my commitment to do so in front of the Environment and Climate Change Committee on 25 March.

As you know, we are committed to transparency in our work. Providing open information about the risks we see to the environment helps elected officials, local communities, businesses and the voluntary sector understand the issues, scrutinise our decisions and take action themselves. You, and other interested parties, will now be able to see our list of high priority sites here:

[Locations of high priority waste sites in England - GOV.UK](#)

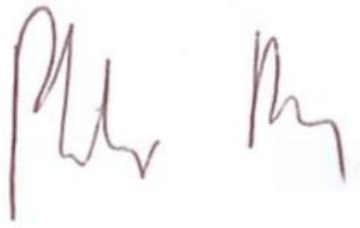
This is our list of sites that we know are causing concerns in local communities, and will enable you to see where we are working now. This picture will never be static, but will continuously evolve as we review activities, receive updated reports and resolve issues, and we commit to updating the list every month. You will notice the number of high priority sites has moved on from the 151 sites I quoted in March, to 117 high priority sites in May. We have updated the number of sites on the list as we continue to assess information and take action on waste sites.

The information published is limited, as we do not wish to prejudice ongoing or potential criminal proceedings. Whether any activity is illegal is ultimately a matter for the Courts to decide, and not the Environment Agency. However, we recognise the need to support communities in accessing information which might affect them. We will share more details on individual sites as it becomes available – with a view to releasing any site-specific information, which is appropriate to share publicly, in the coming months on our Waste Hub site here:

[Environment Agency Waste Hub | Engage Environment Agency](#)

As I said when I spoke to the committee in March, I hope that the publication of this list brings greater transparency around the work being done by the Environment Agency to address the public's concerns about waste in their communities. I welcome questions from the committee on this matter and I would be happy to discuss this further with you.

Yours sincerely



**Philip Duffy**

Chief Executive Environment Agency