

Javelin Park Investigation by Chris Warne

Official position stays same for now

◆ continued from page 1
incinerators would in fact "produce reliable results."

Michael Ryan, a prominent anti-incineration campaigner, who has been calling on the HPA to conduct such a study since 2008, has branded the agency's change of tack a "blatant U-turn".

Working with Dr Dick van Steenis, a retired GP and former advisor to a House of Commons air pollution select committee, Mr Ryan has spent the best part of a decade investigating the purported link between incinerator fumes and child deaths.

Using figures obtained from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), the pair believe they have established a definitive link between the deaths of children and their proximity to incinerators.

After mapping out the ONS data around 28 incinerators located in Britain, they claim to have found that the average UK infant mortality rate is raised by some eight deaths per 1,000 births in wards situated within 15 miles downwind of the facilities.

"Those who say that incinerators are not harming health have not looked at any of the data," said Mr Ryan, a former employee of the Environment Agency.

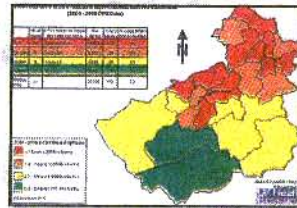
"What the data suggests is that there is a clear link between infant mortality and exposure to incinerators and their emissions."

Mr Ryan, 62, who lives in Shrewsbury, believes the death of his 19-year-old son David from leukaemia in 1999 may have been caused by pollution from a hospital incinerator close to his school.

Jo Walker, GCC's director of strategic finance, said: "The HPA's position is that modern, well run and regulated municipal waste incinerators are not a significant risk."

"We welcome any robust and peer-reviewed research that will help in refuting some of the myths surrounding modern incinerators."

A spokesman for the HPA confirmed its position: "However, we recognise that there are real public concerns about this issue and will take every possible step to reas-



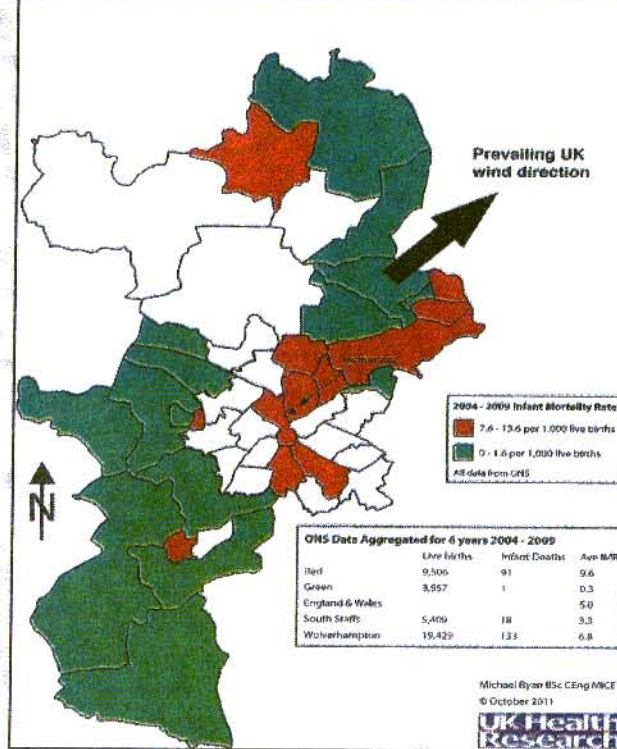
A map produced using data from the Office of National Statistics by anti-incinerator campaigner Michael Ryan. It shows rates of infant mortality in electoral wards between 2004 and 2009 around the Kirklees incinerator in Huddersfield ZSEM6562H11.

sure people that the position is as we have outlined.

"HPA also continually seeks to review and extend the evidence base on which it bases its advice.

"For these reasons, we are in discussions with researchers at Imperial College London about a potential study into birth outcomes around municipal waste incinerators and a detailed proposal for what would be a complex study is being drawn up."

High & Low Infant Mortality rates in Wolverhampton & South Staffordshire Electoral Wards



ONS Data Aggregated for 6 years 2004 - 2009			
	Live Births	Infant Deaths	Ave M/R
Red	9,306	91	9.6
Green	3,957	1	0.3
England & Wales			5.0
South Staffs	5,409	18	3.3
Wolverhampton	19,429	133	6.8

Michael Ryan BSc CEng MCF © October 2011



◆ A map produced using data from the Office of National Statistics by anti-incinerator campaigner Michael Ryan. It shows rates of infant mortality in electoral wards around an incinerator in Wolverhampton between 2004 and 2009 ZSEM6563V11

In Brief

Carols for caring

A TOTAL of £230 was raised for Cotswold Care Hospice following the annual festive carol service in Whiteshill.

More than 40 villagers gathered around the community Christmas tree, donated by Blooms Garden Centre after the first one was stolen, to sing carols on Thursday, December 22.

The money was raised thanks to the generosity of customers in the Star Inn pub and through door collections.

Fair for funds

LUCKY dips, a raffle, cake sales and a name-the-teddy competition helped to raise more than £800 for Park Juniors at the Stonehouse School's Christmas Fair on Friday, December 2.

New court

A NEW coroner's court will hold its first inquest today, Wednesday, January 4.

The new complex, which includes mortuary and post mortem facilities, has been built off the Walls Roundabout in Corinium Avenue, Gloucester.

It will officially open in April.

Data not just from poorer boroughs

SCEPTICS of Michael Ryan by Chris Warne

That is almost double the time last year

Your Local Specialist Personal Injury Lawyers

Winterbotham Smith Penley Solicitors

Accident - At work? - On the Road?

Slip/Trip? Industrial Disease?

