

Scan Sheet
eCase DECC CU -
New Case



System User 3356/91

1. eCase Case Ref.	
2. Case type (please circle) MC - Minister's Case, PO - Private Office TO - Treat Official, TFR - Transfer Case	MC <input checked="" type="radio"/> PO TO TFR
3. Case Title	FACTORY CLOSED
4. Department/Directorate (Team)	LOW CARBON ECONOMY
5. Subject	LOW CARBON BUSINESS
6. Date Post Opened and Scanned (Date Received)	22/7
7. Urgency (please circle)	HIGH
8. Handling Instructions	
9. Addressee minister (if applicable)	Barker Hendry <input checked="" type="radio"/> Huhne Marland
10. Responding minister (if applicable)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Barker Hendry Huhne Marland
11. Allocated to (Drafter)	

19 July 2010

Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
LONDON
SW1A 2HH

ALFED
ALUMINIUM FEDERATION LTD

RECEIVED
21 JUL 2010

Dear Mr Huhne

One of our ALFED Members, Norton Aluminium, recently received a letter from Caparo Aluminium Technologies, one of the UK's leading aluminium casting companies, advising of the imminent closure of their foundry due to unreasonable demands being placed upon them by their regulating authority, themselves under pressure from a litigious lawyer acting on behalf of local residents.

gB to
respond

Norton are facing similar problems, with noise emission standards demanded being lower than those experienced by 90% of UK surveyed households (Building Research Establishment survey 2000).

Environmental permitting regulations are not fit for purpose as far as balancing the power of the regulators & needs of the community with the capability and resources of the industries so regulated.

The Managing Director of Norton Aluminium, Henry Dickinson, has been vociferously making this point to BIS, Defra, MP's and Ministers for several years now, both directly and through his Trade Associations, notably the Aluminium Federation and the Non-Ferrous Alliance, but repeatedly he gets the feedback that "this doesn't seem to be a widespread problem".

Henry Dickinson quite correctly states that within our sector, it is conceivable that all of our plants may be construed as operating, at least to some extent, in breach of their permits if the regulator chooses to interpret them with legal rigour. That leaves the regulator and the operator wide open to legal challenge by litigious lawyers nominally acting on behalf of local residents.

How many more of our factories have to close before BIS do something about this?

I must stress that the UK's Aluminium Sector is a responsible industry and wish to have good dialogue and communication with our neighbours. However this is a growing trend and Government needs to intervene to stop the needless closure of more of British Business.

Yours sincerely

Will Savage
Chief Executive
Aluminium Federation

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