

## KIRKLEES METROPOLITAN DISTRICT INFANT DEATHS BY WARDS

2003 – 2005

### UPWIND ZONE

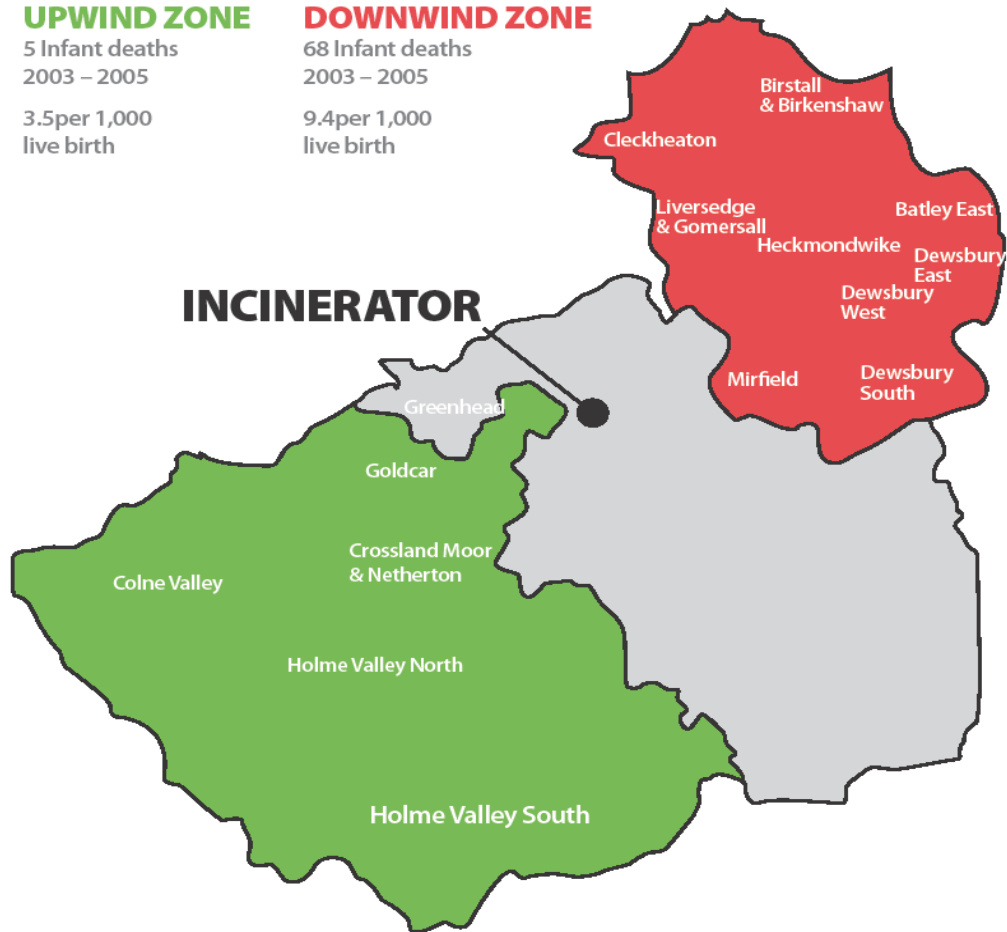
5 Infant deaths  
2003 – 2005

3.5 per 1,000  
live birth

### DOWNWIND ZONE

68 Infant deaths  
2003 – 2005

9.4 per 1,000  
live birth



Prevailing wind direction

Downwind wards

Upwind wards

Source:  
Michael Ryan 2007

## Downwind Health

Michael Ryan's worrying maps have been rejected  
by Incinerator permitting authorities

SEE OVER FOR HOW THIS CAN BE ADDRESSED !

# HAGATI — Halton Action Group Against The Incinerator

## Downwind Health

Michael Ryan's maps indicated significant adverse health effects for people living downwind of Incinerators. The relevant authorities dismissed these concerns largely ( allegedly ) because:

- A) No account was taken of socio-economic & other confounding factors
- B) The methodology & data used had not been subject to peer review
- C) No scientific journals had accepted the findings for publication
- D) The population samples used were too small to produce significant results

The obvious question then is:

**“Why has no study been undertaken which DOES take these factors into account ?“**

HAGATI discussed this with Distinguished Professor Peter Diggle of Lancaster University who is an expert on such statistical studies and who expressed keen interest in undertaking such a study. We subsequently met with him and Dr Alex Stuart of the Health Protection Agency ( HPA ). The HPA is the agency to whom all parties refer when considering proposals for Incinerators and who are always told: *‘The HPA are satisfied that modern well managed Incinerators pose no significant risk to health’* and *‘health studies around any Incinerator are not recommended’* However it turns out that the HPA agree that a professional study involving a number of Incinerators, and therefore on a larger sample population, on the basis that we proposed, IS worthwhile. WE AGREE ! If the result of such a study concluded that there is a problem then that would significantly influence agencies involved in both existing and proposed Incinerators. If the study indicated no adverse health effects then concerned residents would be reassured — at least on this aspect of Incineration.

**A WIN WIN situation.**

So, is such a study going to be ridiculously expensive ? The answer is NO ! Professor Diggle indicated that using readily available data in around 10 locations and, subject to scoping, the cost would be in the region of £10,000 — **YES, ONLY £10,000** —

We approached our local ( Cheshire ) PCTs and our local Councillors and received the support we expected and funding seemed assured. Then, guess what ! The PCTs backtracked and our Council vetoed the funds already agreed by our local Councillors — both for non-sensical reasons which had all the hallmarks of political / commercial influence.

We're now calling on UKWIN members to help us raise the £10,000 needed. Perhaps your local Council or PCT will agree that the study deserves funding for the benefit of the residents in your area concerned with health effects from existing and proposed Incinerators.

**If you can help or need some more information PLEASE contact:**

**Alan Gorry: 01928 572298**  
**Jeff Meehan: 01928 581171**

**alangorry@supanet.com**  
**jeff.meehan@ntlworld.com**