



## **Sixth Inter-Island Public Health Forum**

Les Côtils Christian Centre, Cambridge Park Guernsey

Wednesday, 17th October - Saturday, 20th October 2001

### **The Joys of Waste Management**

**Dr Ian MacLean, Chief Administrative Medical Officer/Director of Public Health,  
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For a number of years, it has been apparent that radical steps were necessary to address the Isle of Man's waste management problem. As available landfill was exhausted, discussions of incineration and other waste management methods began.

A formal planning application made for the construction of a mass burn incinerator near Douglas predicatably evoked strong reactions from public and professionals.

The Public Health Directorate became involved in responding to the various public concerns and was eventually obliged to make public comment just before a Tynwald debate to approve an estimated £43m expenditure on the project, resulting in the postponement of the debate for some 3 months.

Chief areas of concern about the project were:

- the ability of the proposed incinerator to perform reliably within proposed emission limits
- the ability to accurately measure dioxin emissions
- concern over possible adverse health effects of microparticulates
- the serious consideration of recycling and composting as part of a comprehensive waste management strategy

Against a background of public perceptions, local politics and imperfect information, the process of conducting a health impact assessment of this project will be described. In particular, current knowledge of human health effects of dioxins and particulates will be examined.