



PRESS RELEASE

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WASTE CRIME COSTS ENGLAND £600M A YEAR

Waste crime in England incurs losses to the legitimate waste industry and the taxpayer of £604 million a year, according to a new report commissioned by the Environmental Services Association Educational Trust (ESAET) and the Environmental Services Association.

Supported by the 'Right Waste Right Place' campaign, and written by environmental consultancy Eunomia, the report uncovers that the growing cost of waste crime is now equivalent to building 34 new secondary schools or paying for 4,137 NHS hospital beds per year.

Launched today at the House of Commons, *Rethinking Waste Crime* highlights that illegal waste operators blight local communities, damage the environment, harm legitimate businesses and deprive the government of tax revenue.

The research shows the waste sector, which adds £6.6 billion of value to the UK economy, has changed beyond all recognition in the last two decades and regulation has not kept up. A new waste management system that allows society to use waste as a resource for recycling and recovery has opened up gaps that can be exploited.

Rethinking Waste Crime found the majority of waste crime is associated with waste from businesses, not from households. It suggests most serious waste crime falls into one of six categories: illegal waste sites, inaccurately describing waste, illegal export of waste, illegal burning of waste, fly tipping and serious breaches of permit conditions.

The report stresses that weak regulation is a major cause of waste crime: for example, anyone can obtain a licence to carry waste by paying a small online fee, and through minimal checks; waste carriers or sites that operate under exemptions (instead of proper waste permits) are rarely inspected; and there is no way to track commercial waste from its production through to its end destination.

Suggesting there is no simple fix, *Rethinking Waste Crime* recommends a package of changes that will modernise England's out of date waste management system, including tightening up regulation of areas that are barely regulated, increasing enforcement, banning serious and repeat offenders from the sector, and securing new sources of funding from criminals for the Environment Agency.

Jacob Hayler, Executive Director at the Environmental Services Association said: "Despite additional funding for regulators and stronger enforcement powers, waste crime is more entrenched than ever. Clearly, we need a different approach which targets the underlying causes of crime in our sector and which roots out the prevailing culture which allows waste crime to flourish. This report highlights the weakness in the current regime and puts forward ambitious recommendations aimed at stopping waste crime once and for all."

Mike Brown, Managing Director from Eunomia said: "Regulators have been under-resourced and encouraged to take a light-touch approach in order to be business friendly. Ironically, this is actually harming the interests of legitimate waste businesses while giving criminals an easy ride. The solution isn't to abandon the progress we've made, but to modernise regulation to support our increasingly circular economy."

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Picture 1 caption: Front cover of the new *Rethinking Waste Crime* report

Picture 2 caption: Courtesy of the Environment Agency

Picture 3 caption: Understanding the Pathways of Waste Crime, page 8, *Rethinking Waste Crime*

1. *Rethinking Waste Crime* suggests the following changes are made to waste regulation:
 - Closing the gaps in regulation
 - Reducing exemptions for waste sites
 - Setting new standards to qualify as a waste carrier, broker and dealer
 - Stronger enforcement of failures in Duty of Care right through the waste chain
 - Improving enforcement efforts by introducing a new inspection regime for sites
 - Developing an electronic waste transfer note system for better traceability
 - Developing enforcement funding from within the waste system
 - Improving cross-regulatory cooperation and raising awareness
2. The full report is available to download
http://www.esauk.org/esa_reports/20170502_Rethinking_Waste_Crime.pdf
3. The report was launched at the Thames Pavilion at the House of Commons on **Tuesday 2nd May 2017** from **16:15 – 18:00** by Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Member of Parliament for Poplar and Limehouse , Jacob Hayler Executive Director at the Environmental Services Association and Mike Brown Managing Director from Eunomia.
4. Current legislative framework is failing because it was designed nearly 30 years ago, when waste disposal was cheap and material rarely travelled beyond local landfill sites. Higher disposal costs now allow us to extract more value from waste, which can sometimes be worth sending hundreds of miles for recycling. However, the system needs to be updated to secure the survival, development and growth of the UK's resource and waste management industry, which contributes £6.6 billion to the UK economy.
5. There are many high-profile examples of waste crime that could have been prevented or resolved more quickly if the system was up to date. MJ Cole Skip Hire operated an illegal waste site in Shropshire. The Environment Agency was aware of the site, and had been in dialogue with the company for several years with the aim of bringing the site into the regulatory system. However, when the company applied for a waste carrier registration, it was granted by the Environment Agency, making it

easier for the company to obtain more waste from unwitting customers, and bring it to their illegal site. Other examples are available on request.

6. **ABOUT EUNOMIA:** Established in 2001, Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd ('Eunomia') is a Bristol-based, independent consultancy dedicated to adding value organisations through the delivery of improved outcomes. Eunomia has over 70 employees in the UK, and has offices in Bristol, London, Manchester, Brussels and Auckland. Working throughout the UK, other EU Member States and beyond, Eunomia's consultants have experience and expertise in environmental, technical and commercial disciplines. For more information about Eunomia, please visit: www.eunomia.co.uk
7. **ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION:** The Environmental Services Association (ESA) is a membership organisation representing the UK waste and waste and resource management sector. Its work helps enable its members to turn Britain's waste into valuable resources whilst protecting the environment. For more information, please visit: <http://www.esauk.org/>
8. **ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION EDUCATION TRUST:** ESAET is a charity set up in 2007 to commission research and promote education across society to better the environment. Registered Charity Number: 1118486.
9. **ABOUT "RIGHT WASTE, RIGHT PLACE":** The right Waste, right Place information campaign has been put together by a group of sponsors to help small businesses and establishments meet their Duty of Care obligations as practically as possible. The campaign is managed by the Environmental Services Association and sponsored by the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, CIWM and ESAET. For more information, please visit: <http://www.rightwasterightplace.com/#intro>
10. **ABOUT JIM FITZPATRICK MP, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR POPLAR AND LIMEHOUSE:** Jim was first elected to the Commons in 1997, and has held posts including Minister of State for Defra, Shadow Environment Minister, and Shadow Transport Minister. He currently sits on the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee.
11. **ABOUT JACOB HAYLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION:** Jacob Hayler is the Executive Director at the Environmental Services Association – the trade association for the UK's waste and resource management sector. Jacob joined ESA from the City in 2005 as an Economist, and has spent most of the past 10 years focused on helping to develop market-focused policies that combine environmental and economic sustainability. At various points during his time at ESA, Jacob has retained responsibility for policy relating to finance, tax, carbon management, contracts and energy from waste. In January 2015 Jacob was appointed ESA's Executive Director and he now retains responsibility for the day to day running of the Association.



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12. ABOUT MIKE BROWN, MANAGING DIRECTOR EUNOMIA RESEARCH & CONSULTING

LTD: Mike Brown is Managing Director of Eunomia, the largest strategic waste consultancy in the UK working across Europe and beyond. He has nearly 30 years' experience in the minerals, energy and waste sectors, mainly as an operator. Mike is considered an expert in policy development and practical implementation of permitting activities and has been responsible for license and permit applications and modification for the following types of facilities:

- Recycling facilities
- HMRC facilities
- Composting facilities
- Energy from Waste facilities
- Landfill sites

He has represented the waste industry via its principle trade association, ESA, on numerous permitting related government policy initiatives from the late 1980s to the present day.