



environmental  
services  
association

## PRESS COMMENT

# HSE injury statistics for waste sector make for “sobering reading”

**LONDON, 31 October 2019:** The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK’s resource and waste management industry, has responded to the release of annual injury statistics for the waste industry in Great Britain, which were published yesterday (30 October 2019) by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE). The publication can be found [here](#)

**Executive Director of the Environmental Services Association, Jacob Hayler, said:**

*"The annual release of HSE injury statistics yet again makes for rather sobering reading, with seven fatalities in our sector last year and an injury rate far higher than the all-industry average. Frankly, one fatality is one too many and seven is completely unacceptable.*

*Ours is an incredibly diverse industry with a host of different players across the private, public and third sectors engaged in a range of different waste management activities, each with varying risk profiles. However, it is of course clearly not acceptable that anyone should be harmed through the industry’s activities and ESA continues to work closely with HSE and others to help bring about the necessary change.*

*What is perhaps less evident from HSE statistics is that performance across the sector varies, and ESA remains concerned that improvements achieved by its Members are simply not being replicated by others. ESA’s injury rate has consistently remained lower than that reported by the HSE, and the 21% reduction in RIDDOR injuries achieved in 2018 is in stark contrast to the 1% reduction reported by the HSE for the sector as a whole.*

*ESA Members take health and safety incredibly seriously and wish to ensure standards are raised across the board, for the benefit of everyone in the sector. We are in the process of developing a new H&S strategy which aims to build upon the work we have done in reducing injuries over the past decade."*

**ENDS**

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## Notes to editors:

1. The **Environmental Services Association** (ESA) is the trade association representing the UK's resource and waste management industry, which is leading the transformation of how the UK's waste is managed.
2. We work with all levels of government, regulators and the public to deliver a more sustainable waste and resource management solution for the UK. All of our reports and publications are available to view and download from our website.
3. ESA's Members manage waste on behalf of the whole of society and we are recovering more than ever before. For example, the industry has helped quintuple the UK's household recycling rates over the last decade.
4. **The sector at a glance**
  - Total turnover: **£11 billion**
  - Direct Employment: **106,000 people** (*including waste collection, treatment and materials recovery*)
  - Municipal waste handled each year: **27 million tonnes**
  - Energy generated (across landfill gas, anaerobic digestion and energy from waste) each year: **approximately 11,867 GWh**, which is 3.5% of the UK's electricity
    - **9,083 GWh of that was renewable electricity** (taking out non-biodegradable portion of EfW) which is **11%** of UK's renewable electricity
  - Greenhouse **gas emissions down by 70% since 1990.**
  - The **top seven companies account for approximately 40% of turnover.** Many hundreds of SMEs provide either localised or more specialised services
  - Waste & recycling is the **most highly rated of all council services** by the public (2016 survey)

For further details please visit [www.esauk.org](http://www.esauk.org)

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