

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Luke Pollard MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Pollard,

On behalf of the Environment Services Association (ESA), I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and to wish you every success in your new role.

ESA is the trade body which represents the UK's recycling and waste management industry. Our members companies provide essential services to local communities and businesses by collecting, sorting, and treating their waste to recover materials and energy for the economy, while protecting the environment and human health. Since 1990 we have reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by 69% - a performance commended by the Committee on Climate Change – and last year we recycled over 20 million tonnes of materials, bringing resources back into productive use.

I do of course recognise that there will be many pressing calls on your time as you take up your new responsibilities, but I would be delighted to meet you to explain the important issues currently facing our industry. We would also be happy to arrange site visits to waste recycling and treatment facilities for you, if you would find that helpful.

There are two points in particular to which I would like to draw your attention.

These are currently extremely challenging times for recycling markets

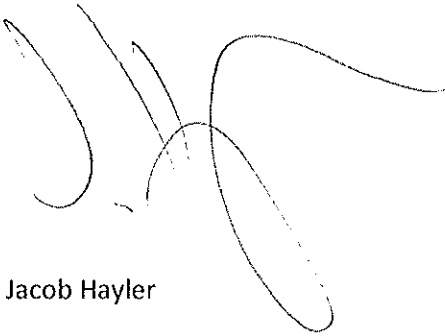
As you know, the Resources and Waste Strategy has set out a long-term path for our sector. However, the Government still needs to deliver the underpinning policy detail which will enable us to meet the recycling ambitions now embedded in UK policy. For too long, recycling has been impeded by a lack of recycling infrastructure, a lack of sustainable end-markets and poor quality materials collected for recycling. ESA would like to work with you to see what can and should be done to ensure the Government addresses these issues.

A new strategic approach and stronger enforcement is needed to stamp out waste crime

Waste crime costs councils and businesses over £600 million each year and ESA has long been urging the Government to act to stamp out illegal activity affecting our sector. While HM Treasury has committed £60 million of additional funding to the Environment Agency in recent years to address waste crime, this has had little impact and our member companies feel that waste crime is more entrenched than ever. We believe that the current enforcement system is failing and a new strategic approach is needed, one which will target the underlying causes of crime in our sector.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and strokes, positioned above the name Jacob Hayler.

Jacob Hayler