



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

ESA PRAISES FRANK AND HONEST PRN DISCUSSION

LONDON, 18 November 2016: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, has welcomed the frank and open views expressed during a consultation day on alternatives to the PRN system.

The consultation, held at London's Central Hall Westminster yesterday (Thursday 17 November) was widely attended by over 50 representatives from waste management companies, local authorities, national and devolved government departments and the packaging and food and drink industries.

The ESA said the session provided valuable insights and a useful opportunity to discuss the future of the legislation that underpins the UK's waste management industry. The discussions focussed on the four alternatives outlined in the ESA's report on developing to the current PRN system.

Titled: "A Discussion of the UK PRN/PERN System for Packaging Waste and Possible Alternatives", the report says developing a new packaging waste regime for the UK would present a unique challenge, and the best way the UK can benefit from European experience is to mix and match individual elements of different systems.

The day featured presentations from ESA executive director Jacob Hayler and a summary of the possible alternatives to the current PRN system by the report's author David Perchard, of waste management consultancy, Perchards and his colleague Gill Bevington and Phil Conran of 360 Environmental This was followed by a series of group discussions on different aspects of the report's suggestions.

Commenting on the consultation day, Mr Hayler said:

"The event was an important opportunity for all stakeholders to have an open and honest discussion about the future of the PRN and PERN system and provided some useful and constructive insights about developing a system that will meet future challenges.

"This is one of several issues that needs to be resolved to create a long-term strategy for the waste management industry."

He added:

“With the right policy drivers we believe the waste management industry can deliver new waste infrastructure worth £10bn, build 15m tonnes of new processing capacity, create 50,000 jobs and save government and Council Tax payers billions of pounds.”

A copy of the report can be downloaded from the ESA website (www.esauk.org). The ESA says it would welcome the views of anyone who was unable to attend the Consultation Day. The ESA can be contacted via Toni Waters, ESA communications and membership officer at t-waters@esauk.org.

ENDS

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. ESA’s recent Circular Economy report ‘*Going for Growth – A practical route to a circular economy*’, which outlines how a Circular rather than a linear economy can help manage resources sustainably, can be downloaded [here](#).
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: **80,000 people**
 - Municipal waste handled each year: **over 26 million tonnes**
 - Energy generated (from waste combustion and landfill gas) each year: **approximately 6,700 GWh**, 1.5% of the UK’s total electricity supply and around 20% of our 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

For further details please visit www.esauk.org

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