



environmental  
services  
association

## ESA PRESS COMMENT

# ***ESA welcomes the Government's continued commitment to tackling waste crime***

**LONDON, 17 January 2018:** The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today welcomed the continued commitment from Government to tackle the scourge of waste crime, following the launch of the waste crime consultation earlier this week.

ESA's Head of Regulation, Sam Corp said:

*"As ESA's 'Rethinking Waste Crime' report showed last year, unfortunately, despite the efforts of government, the regulators and the legitimate industry, the problem of waste crime is getting worse rather than better. Whilst, this latest consultation contains some very useful measures, much more is needed."*

*"The proposals to raise the standard of operator competence at permitted sites by strengthening the regulators' assessment and enforcement abilities are helpful. We hope that they will help discourage operators who do not have the resources, the experience, or the intention to operate within the law. Similarly, tightening up financial checks at the front end should also help to prevent operators, who are unable to demonstrate adequate financial standing, from receiving a permit in the first place. However, whilst we welcome this additional scrutiny, we think that extending the financial provision requirement to additional facilities should be dependent upon a revised risk profiling of the sector to avoid tying up capital and potentially constraining investment within the legitimate industry."*

*"The consultation highlights EA research showing that 30% of 'Exemptions' visited were found to be illegal: a damning statistic clearly highlighting the need for change, which ESA has long called for. We therefore welcome additional scrutiny on Exemptions advocated in the consultation."*

*“Proposals to introduce fixed penalty notices to householders who breach their duty of care, will no doubt help to help raise awareness of this important responsibility. However, what is missing in this consultation are proposals to overhaul and tighten the carriers, brokers and dealers regime, which ESA called for in our ‘Rethinking Waste Crime’ report last year. Without this, we have concerns about the effectiveness of the FPNs to deter the real criminals. The requirements for becoming a registered waste carrier, broker or dealer are, quite simply, too lax. So, whilst contracting with a registered carrier or broker ought to provide some comfort to householders that their waste is being managed responsibly, all it actually provides is a veneer of legitimacy which is often relied upon completely to fulfil waste producers’ Duty of Care requirements.”*

---

## 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: **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)

### **Press Contact**

**Toni Waters – Communications and Membership Officer**

*ESA Press Office - (0207) 591 3219 (DD - (0207) 591 3206)*

*Mobile - (07841) 572 834*

*Email - [t-waters@esauk.org](mailto:t-waters@esauk.org) / [press@esauk.org](mailto:press@esauk.org)*