



environmental
services
association

Media release

ESA: EXTEND RESPONSE DEADLINES FOR EPR & DRS FOLLOWING CONSISTENCY DELAY

16 April 2021

The Environmental Services Association (ESA) has responded to the recent publication by Defra of their consultations in [DRS](#) and [EPR](#).

Executive Director of the Environmental Services Association (ESA), Jacob Hayler, said: *“The delay to the publication of Defra’s consultation on collection consistency, announced today, signals a need to extend the response deadline for the two live consultations on DRS and EPR respectively. When the consultations were published in March, we raised concerns that these complex policy interventions must be considered holistically, rather than in isolation, and that the decision to consult separately at a later date on ‘collection consistency’ would make it difficult to properly assess how the proposed measures will work together in a systemic way – which this delay further exacerbates.*

The Resources and Waste Strategy holds the potential to make it easier for consumers to recycle properly, while incentivising producers to make things more recyclable, and these policies will underpin investment in the next generation of new UK recycling infrastructure. As such we are in favour of implementing them as quickly as possible but they must be designed properly to avoid unintended consequences, which is why we believe a short extension to the consultation deadlines would be appropriate - bringing all of them into alignment once the collections consistency documents are published post-elections.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

The Environmental Services Association (ESA) is the voice of the recycling and waste management sector in the UK. You can find out more about our work and our members in our [Annual Report](#) available from www.esauk.org

A summary of the fly-tipping statistics is included below:

- For the 2019/20 year, local authorities in England dealt with just under 1 million (976,000) fly-tipping incidents, an increase of 2% from the 957,000 reported in 2018/19.
- Just under two thirds (65%) of fly-tips involved household waste. Total incidents involving household waste were 632,000 in 2019/20, an increase of 7% from 588,000 in 2018/19.
- The most common place for fly-tipping to occur was on highways (pavements and roads), which accounted for over two fifths (43%) of total incidents in 2019/20. In 2019/20, the number of highway incidents was 419,000, which was an increase of 6% from 396,000 in 2018/19.
- The most common size category for fly-tipping incidents in 2019/20 was equivalent to a 'small van load' (34% of total incidents), followed by the equivalent of a 'car boot or less' (28%).
- In 2019/20, 33,000 or 3% of total incidents were of 'tipper lorry load' size or larger, which is a decrease of 8% from 36,000 in 2018/19. For these large fly-tipping incidents, the cost of clearance to local authorities in England in 2019/20 was £10.9 million, compared with £12.8 million in 2018/19.
- Local authorities carried out 474,000 enforcement actions in 2019/20, a decrease of 26,000 actions (5%) from 501,000 in 2018/19.
- The number of fixed penalty notices issued was 75,400 in 2019/20, a decrease of 2% from 77,000 in 2018/19. This is the second most common action (after investigations), and accounted for 16% of all actions in 2019/20.
- The number of court fines issued increased from 2,056 (30%) to 2,671 in 2019/20, with the value of total fines increasing to £1,170,000 (an increase of 7% on the £1,090,000 total value of fines in 2018/19).

This article provides an overview of the [BBC Panorama investigation](#) which found that the licensing system is failing to stop illegal dumping of waste. The programme is due to be broadcast on Monday 1 March 2021.

For further details please visit www.esauk.org

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