



environmental  
services  
association

## **ESA PRESS STATEMENT**

# ***Government's latest action on waste crime cautiously welcomed by the industry***

**LONDON, 26 November 2018:** The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today welcomed the Government's response to "Proposals to tackle crime and poor performance in the waste sector & introduce a new fixed penalty for the waste duty of care", but would like to see more detail and more progress in a number of key areas.

ESA's Head of Regulation, Sam Corp said:

*"It is encouraging to see the Government's continuing commitment to tackling crime and poor performance in the waste sector, and this response points to a number of initial plans which should start the process of tightening up operator and technical competence at permitted facilities and should help to discourage operators who do not have the resources, the experience or the intention to operate within the law. Whilst we would have liked to have seen more detail on some key areas, such as reform to the carriers, brokers, dealers and exemptions regimes, perhaps it is not surprising that this detail has yet to emerge at a time when Brexit related matters seem to be demanding so much of Civil servants' time".*

*"The proposal to introduce fixed penalty notices to householders who have failed in their duty of care, is a significant measure which should have a real impact by raising awareness of this important responsibility amongst householders. However, without a complete overhaul of the carriers, brokers, dealers regime - as previously recommended by ESA and others, including the Government's own review into Serious and Organised Waste Crime - we retain our concerns about the effectiveness of this proposal to deter the 'real' criminals. Current requirements for becoming a registered waste carrier, broker or dealer are just not stringent enough. So, unfortunately, simply checking that you have passed your waste to a registered carrier does*

***not provide any real guarantee that it will not then be flytipped. We therefore look forward to further Government action in the near future to tackle this issue”.***

---

## **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 3206*

*Mobile - (07841) 572 834 (out of hours only)*

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