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WASTE(LOGICS)

**DIGITAL WASTE TRACKING IS EXPECTED:
THE REAL SHIFT IS WHAT COMES NEXT**

1



WHAT IS THE DIGITAL WASTE TRACKING BY DEFRA

The Digital Waste Tracking (DWT) service is a mandatory initiative introduced by the UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) to replace paper-based waste records with a digital system. It aims to track waste movements from production to disposal, focusing on data input at waste receiving sites to improve transparency, combat illegal waste handling, and enhance environmental outcomes. The system addresses issues like waste crime by providing better data on waste flows, with mandatory implementation planned for October 2026 following a delay from the original April 2025 start date. Businesses must create digital records on the Defra waste tracking service, including details on waste types, quantities, and movements.

2



WHO IS AFFECTED?

The DWT affects a wide range of businesses and organisations involved in the production, handling, transportation, and disposal of waste, including both hazardous and non-hazardous, industrial, and green waste. This includes waste producers, carriers, brokers, and receivers across sectors like manufacturing, construction, and commercial operations. Exemptions apply to certain categories, such as household waste collected by local authorities from domestic premises, household waste recycling centres, and extractive wastes (e.g., from mining). All affected parties must comply with digital reporting to ensure accountability in the waste management chain.

Phase 1 is expected to be live and mandatory by October 2026 and will be for only licensed/registered sites to report waste received to the site - i.e. Incoming Weighbridge Transactions data. The legal requirement will be to report all movements within 48 hours from the end of the day the waste was received on site.

3



HOW VWS SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS AND THE PURGO SYSTEM ARE HELPING

VWS Software Solutions provides the PurGo waste management software, which is designed to assist businesses in complying with Defra's Digital Waste Tracking requirements. As a solution provider, we have been in discussions with DEFRA regarding the Digital Waste Tracking, and we have been invited to the testing phase in the Autumn ahead of the Phase 1 go-live in October 2026.



**GO
LIVE**

We are committed to providing a leading solution to integrate with Digital Waste Tracking and will provide regular updates ahead of Go Live.





EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

By **Brendan Gilligan**

Another massive illegal waste dump, this time on land partly owned by King Charles III, has made the news, with new drone footage from Channel 4 showing two diggers moving waste there, even though the Environment Agency is investigating it. It is a crime for anyone not authorised to enter the site on Bolton House Road because it has a closure order from Wigan Council.

The large waste site in Bickershaw, Wigan, is on land partly owned by the council and King Charles' private estate, which inherited it through an old law. The site is currently subject to a land dispute because the waste is spread across land owned by the Duchy of Lancaster and Wigan Council.

Usually, landowners must clean up waste dumped on their property, but the Duchy claims it doesn't have to because it did not inherit any liabilities with the land. Wigan Council has received a formal notice from the Environment Agency asking it to remove the waste from its land.

A spokesperson for Wigan Council said they believe that those responsible for dumping the waste should clean up the 25,000-tonne waste dump, and failing that, the landowners. The spokesperson added: *"The illegal waste site at Bolton House Road has had, and continues to have, a daily impact on residents who live nearby and on the bordering primary school."*

"We continue to implore all landowners to take the necessary steps to fulfil their own obligations, and we call on the Government to make funding available - via the Environment Agency or other department - to help remove the waste, as has been done for other sites."

Josh Simons, the MP for Macclesfield, has asked the King's estate to pay for its share of the cleanup costs. A petition calling on the King to fund the waste clearance has so far gathered thousands of signatures.

The Duchy of Lancaster has offered to transfer the land to Wigan Council, but the council says the land's value is probably less than the cleanup cost.

If farmers have to pay huge bills when this crime happens to them, why can't the royal estate take responsibility and not pass the cost to taxpayers?

I'm not a big fan of the Royal Family, but given the recent arrest of his brother, it might serve as a good distraction for King Charles, an environmentalist, to get involved in cleaning up the site. Perhaps he could even give Andrew a shovel to help with the cleanup!



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EA plans drone-fleet upgrade to combat waste crime

Waste criminals will be caught and stopped before they start, thanks to new surveillance and investigative tools announced by the Environment Agency (EA) last month.

As part of a major effort to combat waste crime, an improved team of 33 drones will now search for illegal dumps from above. Some of these drones will use laser mapping technology to collect evidence that supports prosecutions.

The EA has also created a new tool that allows officers to check lorry licence applications against waste permit records. This helps identify suspect operators before they can move waste illegally.

The new measures are supported by a strengthened Joint Unit for Waste Crime, which now has 20 specialists working closely with law enforcement to break up organised crime networks. This builds on a successful year, during which 751 illegal waste sites were shut down.

Phil Davies, Head of the Joint Unit for Waste Crime, stated: *"Illegal waste dumping is terrible, and we are determined to fight this crime. As criminals become more sophisticated, we are using new technologies to find and stop them. Through the use of drones, stronger partnerships, and more officers, we will continue our efforts and send a clear message to waste criminals: we will stop you."*

Drones will soon use Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology, which sends millions of laser points to the ground to create detailed maps of illegal waste sites.



Using drones for LIDAR will allow for more accurate mapping, showing exactly where waste has been dumped. These maps can be used in court to help prosecute waste criminals.

Environment Secretary Emma Reynolds said: *"This Government is committed to tackling waste crime and bringing offenders to justice. By increasing the EA's enforcement budget by over 50% to £15.6 million, we are investing in advanced technology to shut down illegal operations more efficiently."*

Every week, the Office of the Traffic Commissioner publishes reports on

all new Heavy Goods Vehicle operator licence applications. New software checks these applications against the EA's public register, identifying which operators have waste permits and waste carrier licences. This helps EA officers target potential offenders before they start operating.

The new tool has already worked well in East Anglia, helping the agency discover a waste company that moved its operations to avoid enforcement. The software flagged the new site within a week, allowing EA officers to act before the licence was approved.

The EA has also grown the Joint Unit for Waste Crime from 13 to 20 specialists, including former police officers.

Together with EA enforcement officers across the country, the Unit collaborates with various organisations, including police forces and the National Crime Agency, to combat serious and organised waste crime.

This builds on the EA's enforcement actions up to March 2025, which included 221 prosecutions against waste criminals.

Clearance of illegal waste site delayed

The Environment Agency (EA) has confirmed that clearance work on the illegal waste dump near the River Cherwell in Kidlington has been delayed due to heavy rainfall.

Acumen Waste Services has been contracted to remove the waste and was scheduled to begin work at the end of February. A spokesperson for the EA indicated that the removal of the waste is now expected to begin this month. Circular Economy Minister Mary Creagh has previously stated that the clearance will take approximately six to nine months.

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Behind Ireland's DRS success: How smart IT is powering nearly 2.5 billion returned containers

Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) recently marked its second anniversary on 1st February 2024. The scheme has become one of Europe's most efficient deposit systems, powered by an end-to-end IT solution from Sensoneo, the technology partner for operator Re-turn.

Sensoneo's platform oversees the entire scheme lifecycle - from product registration to transaction processing - ensuring transparency, accuracy, and scalability for all stakeholders.

IT is the foundation of scale and trust

From the outset, Ireland's DRS was designed as a fully digital system. Sensoneo's cloud-based platform integrates retailers, producers, RVM operators, logistics partners, and the scheme administrator into a single, centrally managed data ecosystem.

The system enables real-time performance monitoring, automated clearing and settlement of deposits and handling fees, centralised product and barcode management, advanced fraud detection, and data-driven reporting for regulatory compliance and strategic decision-making. As the scheme scaled rapidly, this digital foundation proved critical in supporting operational stability,

transparency, and public trust.

A strong partnership for long-term success

Close co-operation between Re-turn and Sensoneo has been central to the smooth operation of the scheme, building on a successful first year that positioned Ireland as a reference point for other countries preparing to launch or optimise deposit return systems.

Alan Pearson, CIO of Re-turn, said: *"Sensoneo continue to be a flexible, valuable, and trusted partner working closely and collaboratively with us to develop and evolve the technology platform that underpins the operation of the scheme. The success that Sensoneo continue to experience across Europe confirms that this partnership and technology have been the correct strategic decision for Re-turn."*

"The Irish DRS shows that high collection performance is not only about infrastructure on the ground, but about the digital systems behind it," said Martin Basila, CEO of Sensoneo. *"Processing nearly 2.5 billion returned containers requires absolute reliability, accurate data, and seamless integration across all stakeholders. We are proud to support*



Re-turn and contribute to Ireland's transition toward a more circular, data-driven economy."

Sensoneo currently provides IT systems for deposit return schemes in nine countries, drawing on experience gained across a wide range of regulatory, infrastructure, and consumer environments.

From launch to maturity

As Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme moves from rollout to long-term operation, data and digitalisation will play an increasingly significant role - enabling the optimisation of collection networks, smarter logistics, an improved consumer experience, and measurable progress toward national recycling and circular economy targets.

Two years on, Ireland's DRS continues to show how technology-led design can turn ambitious environmental policy into a system that works efficiently for consumers, businesses, and the environment alike.

DRS questions to be addressed in new webinar series

Exchange for Change, a not-for-profit organisation delivering the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) across England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, has launched a free introductory webinar series to help businesses prepare for the scheme's implementation in October 2027.

The first series of 'DRS 101' webinars began last month and will continue this month, with more dates for future sessions to be announced during the year.

Each 45-minute webinar provides a high-level introduction to the scheme, covering what it is, who is involved, and what the DRS means for businesses across the supply chain. These sessions are designed to build awareness and give businesses

the confidence to start planning.

The webinars also include a live Q&A session, allowing participants to ask questions.

Featuring speakers from the Exchange for Change team, the series will outline the responsibilities that drinks producers, retailers, wholesalers, and hospitality outlets will face, helping attendees understand the actions they may need to take as the scheme approaches.

Understanding how the DRS will operate is crucial for businesses that sell drinks in PET plastic, steel, or aluminium containers ranging from 150ml to 3 litres.

With just over 18 months until the DRS launch, Exchange for Change is prioritising early support to ensure relevant

businesses are aware of the changes and have adequate time to prepare.

The webinars will be delivered via Microsoft Teams. They are free to attend and will take place on the following dates:-
10:30-11:15am, Monday, 9th March.
9:30-10:15am, Wednesday, 11th March
10:30-11:15am, Tuesday, 17th March.
1:30-2:15pm, Thursday, 19th March.

Anyone interested in attending can register for their preferred date and time by scanning the QR code. A recording will also be available for download from the Exchange for Change website once all live sessions have concluded.



Concerns raised regarding Welsh Government's decision to include glass in Deposit Return Scheme

A group of trade bodies has criticised last month's decision by the Welsh Government's to include glass in its Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), calling it "a recipe for disaster." They argue it will complicate glass collection and delay the scheme's introduction.

Contrary to government claims, unique labels will be required from the start, making it costly for retailers to identify products for the Welsh market and potentially leading to the removal of popular items from shelves.

The trade bodies also dispute the Government's assertion that including glass is environmentally friendly, citing potential losses in economies of scale and ongoing kerbside collections of non-drink glass containers, which could increase inefficiencies and costs.

Miles Beale, Chief Executive of the Wine and Spirit Trade Association (WSTA), criticised the Welsh Government's decision to include glass in their Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), calling it a "recipe for disaster." He argued that this move would limit the availability of wine and spirit products in Welsh stores and create unnecessary trade barriers.

Beale emphasised that aligning the scope of materials across the UK is essential for a successful DRS and warned that rising taxes and costs, many of which

are due to government policies, will further impact businesses and consumer prices without delivering significant environmental benefits.

Andy Slee, Chief Executive of the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA), expressed disappointment over the Welsh Government's approach.

He argued that the proposed scheme won't improve recycling or reduce waste effectively. He warned that it could lead to higher costs and fewer consumer options, pushing small producers out of the Welsh market. He urged the UK Government to reconsider and move towards a unified UK scheme.

James Bielby, Chief Executive of FWD Food and Drink Wholesale, described the situation as "the worst of all worlds."

He noted that while aligning on PET and aluminium by October 2027 is a positive step, the inclusion of glass from 2031 would create confusion, restrict consumer choice, and introduce trade hurdles within the UK.

Bielby noted that wholesalers would need more warehouse space and greater investment to manage stock segregation. At the same time, retailers in Wales face costly investments in Reverse Vending Machines or manual handling of glass containers, putting them at a competitive disadvantage.

Sherbourne Recycling promotes cutting-edge technology at Packaging Innovations exhibition

Anthony Hornsby, partnerships and communications manager at Sherbourne Recycling, discussed the critical role of AI and technology in accelerating progress towards a more circular economy at the Packaging Innovations exhibition (11th-12th February at the NEC).

Hornsby joined the *Connecting the value chain - technologies at the sorting line helping to close the recycling gap* panel discussion, alongside representatives from Ocado and Greyparrot. The session examined how innovation is closing the recycling gap and how data is being used to meet waste legislation.

As part of the session, Hornsby and the panel discussed how legislation is unlocking opportunities for the supply chain; the use of data in driving efficiencies and tackling hard-to-recycle items; and how AI is helping to optimise the value of waste.

Commenting on the event, Hornsby said: "Packaging Innovations provided a fascinating platform to discuss the industry's most pressing issues. A key topic of discussion was the importance of collaboration in adapting to the shifting regulatory landscape and opening possibilities for genuine circularity."

"I'm pleased to have contributed to the session and shared insight from Sherbourne Recycling regarding how we're using technology to drive the industry forward."

Packaging Innovations brought together brands, retailers, designers, suppliers and manufacturers from across the packaging supply chain to share knowledge, insight and best practice.



New site developments for Hillhead 2026

An impressive range of showground improvements has been confirmed by the organisers to further enhance the visitor and exhibitor experience at this summer's Hillhead exhibition. New site developments include:

- A £105,000 upgrade to the Wi-Fi network, with a ring of fibre extended across the site to improve connectivity. This will provide more free hotspots for visitors and improve bespoke digital solutions for exhibitors.

- Following the successful relocation of the Hillhead Café into the Showground Pavilion, an additional coffee lounge will also be added this year, meaning more catering options and outdoor seating for

both visitors and exhibitors.

- A major upgrade to the site water system will allow an increased number of toilet units across the site. The upgrade will also facilitate an additional water refill station, with visitors able to access free chilled water at the Registration Area, Showground Pavilion, and in the Organiser's Office. Refillable bottles will be available to purchase, but visitors are encouraged to bring their own.

The UK's largest quarrying and construction equipment exhibition takes place from 23rd-25th June at Hillhead Quarry, near Buxton, Derbyshire. Pre-register for your FREE entry badge today at www.hillhead.com



Pictured L-R: Procurri CEO Mat Jordan and The Royal Mint Chief Growth Officer Sean Millard

Royal Mint, Procurri partner for ITAD metals recovery

Reformation Metals, the precious metals recovery business of The Royal Mint, has appointed Procurri, a global IT asset disposition (ITAD) firm, as a key strategic partner to scale the recovery of precious metals from retired equipment.

Under the new agreement, Procurri will oversee the secure collection, decommissioning, and data destruction of end-of-life IT equipment for enterprise and public-sector customers worldwide. Reformation Metals will then process circuit boards from this equipment using its innovative clean technology, developed in collaboration with its partner Excir, which can recover up to 99% of the surface gold content. Other valuable metals recovered by The Royal Mint include palladium, silver, and copper.

Procurri operates processing facilities across the UK, Europe, the USA, Canada, and Singapore. Together with Reformation Metals' advanced recycling capabilities, this partnership provides organisations with a compliant and auditable solution for retiring IT equipment.

Sean Millard, Chief Growth Officer at The Royal Mint, stated: "We are combining best-in-class IT asset disposal services with a truly differentiated recycling capability.

"Procurri's expertise in secure logistics, decommissioning, and data destruction complements our clean technology

for precious metals recovery. This collaboration allows us to offer customers a trusted, end-to-end solution that protects data, maximises material value, and promotes a sustainable approach to technology disposal."

Mat Jordan, CEO of Procurri, added: "This partnership reflects our shared commitment to delivering secure, compliant, and sustainable outcomes for organisations managing retired IT assets.

"By integrating Procurri's global IT asset lifecycle capabilities with Reformation Metals' innovative precious metals recovery process, we provide customers with an auditable, reliable, end-to-end approach that safeguards data, recovers value, and supports the transition to a more circular economy."

The partnership primarily targets large-scale enterprises, telecommunications companies, and public-sector clients, especially where the recovery of high-value circuit boards and secure precious metal recovery are priorities.

The Reformation Metals facility in Llantrisant, South Wales, is part of The Royal Mint's long-term strategy to diversify into sustainable precious metals innovation. The organisation seeks to position metals recovery from electronic waste as a means of supporting domestic supply chains aligned with the UK Critical Minerals Strategy.

Global waste projected to rise more than 80% by 2050, says WRAP

Global waste is set to increase by over 80% by 2050 compared to 2020, according to WRAP, a global environmental charity. To tackle this problem, governments need to work together and move towards a circular economy.

WRAP's report states that the current linear model of consumption adds to waste and harms the environment. Since 2000, OECD countries have generated over 100 million tonnes more waste, accounting for about 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

WRAP believes the UK can lead the way in adopting a circular economy, where products are made to last longer, and waste is reduced. This system focuses on reuse, repair, and recycling, aiming to recover any remaining value from materials that cannot be reused.

The UK Government forecasts that by 2042, there could be over 17 million tonnes of waste that cannot be recycled, even in the best recycling scenarios. Effectively managing this waste is essential for minimising environmental damage and preserving economic value.

Claire Shrewsbury, WRAP's director, highlights that while reducing waste should be a goal, no circular system will be totally waste-free.

The report compares the UK's waste policies with those of other countries and finds that while the UK has a good start, there is no perfect system for managing waste.

Some planned updates to waste policies, such as the Deposit Return Scheme for drink containers, food waste collections, and new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rules for businesses, have been delayed due to the pandemic and leadership changes.

WRAP emphasises the need to keep waste out of landfill and to combine leftover waste treatment with prevention and recycling efforts. We should manage unrecyclable waste to recover value, like generating electricity from incineration or producing useful gases through composting.

As the UK develops circular economy strategies, WRAP believes it can move forward faster than many other countries, especially as global waste challenges grow.



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Recycling body opposes EU scrap aluminium export curbs

Last month, a prominent global recycling industry body firmly stated that the European Commission's proposed restrictions on scrap aluminium exports are unnecessary and pose a significant threat to the integrity of the circular economy.

Last November, the Commission announced plans to restrict exports of scrap aluminium to prevent an excessive outflow from the European Union, which would put its industry at risk.

This move was positively received by aluminium lobby European Aluminium, which has been advocating for the implementation of export fees on the material.

However, the Brussels-based Bureau of International Recycling (BIR), representing 37 national recycling federations, sharply criticised the notion of an EU export ban or any trade restrictions on aluminium scrap, calling it *"neither necessary nor effective."*

The BIR emphasised that the EU already produces more aluminium scrap than can be processed domestically. Its analysis indicates that the available data do not provide any evidence of a structural *"scrap leakage"* warranting such intervention.

Scrap leakage refers to the loss of recyclable materials - a crucial resource with a much lower carbon footprint than primary metals - flowing into foreign markets.

Imposing export restrictions would trigger an oversupply within the EU, significantly lower scrap prices, and place recyclers in a precarious economic situation, the BIR warns.

Moreover, such measures would ultimately diminish collection and recycling rates, increase the risk of unmanaged waste streams, and fundamentally undermine the principles of the circular economy.

The Commission has indicated it will propose targeted measures for aluminium scrap by the second quarter of this year, but the concerns raised by the BIR should not be disregarded.



UK metals recycling could cut emissions by 93% by 2050

A Carbon Footprint Assessment commissioned by the British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA) has concluded that the Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions of the UK metals recycling industry could decrease by 93% by 2050.

However, the assessment emphasises that government support is crucial for the UK metals recycling sector to become the world's first to produce net zero recycled metal.

Additionally, the assessment found that the overall carbon footprint of the UK metals recycling industry - including emissions from associated third parties, such as smelting and refining by steelmakers could be reduced by 70%.

The analysis also indicates that switching to steel produced by Electric Arc Furnaces (EAFs) could reduce the industry's emissions footprint by 38%.

Conducted by Tunley Environmental, this assessment aims to provide a clearer understanding of emissions and align the industry with the UK Government's legally binding target to achieve net zero by 2050.

The BMRA has outlined five recommendations for the UK Government. These include ensuring that metals recycling businesses can participate in the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme, which seeks to lower electricity costs for

manufacturing industries.

Other recommendations include expanding the uptake of biofuels by introducing a 10p per litre reduction in fuel duty for biofuels such as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), along with an annual review to maintain competitiveness.

The BMRA also calls for affordable financing and the adoption of science-based standards - such as the Steel Climate Standard set by the Global Steel Climate Council - that do not penalise recycled content.

Finally, the BMRA urges the UK Government to incorporate fee modulation based on recyclability and recycled-content criteria into upcoming reforms of the Batteries, End-of-Life Vehicle, and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations.

Commenting on the launch of the report, BMRA's President, Susie Burrage OBE, stated: *"Metals recycling has always been central to the UK's circular economy, preventing emissions and conserving vital resources for generations."*

"However, as we strive for net zero, our industry's role has never been more significant. This Roadmap demonstrates that with the right policies, collaboration, and investment, UK metal recyclers can accelerate towards being the first in the world to produce net zero recycled metal."

EA sets hourly charge for 'Simpler Recycling' non-compliance

The Environment Agency (EA) has announced that it will charge businesses and non-domestic premises that do not follow the 'Simpler Recycling' regulations £118 per hour for its regulatory work. Businesses that comply with these obligations will not face any charges.

A consultation response released on 3rd February received just 60 responses when it ran last year. The EA stated that the feedback was "mostly positive," but only 32 respondents supported the changes, while 22 opposed them and five were neutral.

The law regarding 'Simpler Recycling' does not allow the Agency to issue fixed penalty notices. Some respondents asked for these penalties as a quicker, cheaper way to address non-compliance.

The EA agreed that fixed penalties are helpful in other areas, but noted that it does not have that power in this case. The hourly charge is the primary way the Agency recovers costs for enforcement when fixed penalties are not an option.

The EA mentioned that its options are limited: it can offer free advice, issue a

compliance notice, and, if that is ignored, take the matter to court as a last resort. Fines from court cases go to HM Treasury, not the Agency.

The £118 rate covers direct staff costs, corporate overheads, capital finance costs, and bad debt. Travel expenses, such as fuel and train tickets, are included, and travel time for compliance visits will be charged to the assessment. Those who questioned how this rate was calculated were directed to the EA's published guidance.

Some respondents expressed concerns about the financial burden on smaller businesses, noting that the charge could impact those already facing economic hardships. However, micro-firms with fewer than 10 full-time equivalent employees are currently exempt from these charges until 31st March, 2027.

According to WRAP and LARAC, approximately 10% of England's 2.2 million businesses fell within scope when the regulations took effect for larger workplaces on 31st March, 2025. And a survey conducted by First Mile in July 2024 found that 75% of businesses with between

10 and 49 employees had not started planning for the changes at that point.

The consultation response also addressed concerns about delivery timelines, supply chain pressures for vehicles and containers, and the need to upgrade waste and recycling infrastructure.

The EA stated that Defra and it are working with waste collectors and other key stakeholders in the sector. However, no specific measures or transitional arrangements were announced beyond the current timeline for micro-firms.

The EA confirmed that there is no minimum volume requirement for food waste separation. Businesses in scope must arrange for separate collection of food waste, regardless of the amount.

Since the regulations took effect, the Agency has focused on providing engagement and advice at no cost. It stated it would "take a pragmatic approach," prioritising support to help stakeholders understand new requirements and overcome challenges related to compliance.

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LISA GILLESPIE

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Director of People and Culture at Settlement Agreement Solicitors

Lisa has over two decades' experience in leadership roles in the HR and employment law sectors. With qualifications in employment law, psychology, NLP and mediation, she isn't afraid to challenge dogmatic thinking. She approaches everyday people's issues with one mission: to put the human back into human resources.

Leave 'em in the pub!

If you are a regular reader of my columns, you will know I harp on about politics a lot, because leaders matter, and there is no one more accountable as a leader to us than our Prime Minister.

And hasn't he had a rough ride recently? And what's going wrong for him?

Despite the criticism, I was relieved to hear some more moderate responses that made the important point that we must stop dismissing prime ministers at the first whiff of poor decision-making. Having said that, I was of course also relieved to see Boris and Liz ousted, I mean, they really, really messed up as leaders. However, it's been over 7,000 years since people started chucking leaders into a peat bog when the crops failed, and we really need to move on from that mindset.

Mistakes are ok. It's owning them that's important.

In my view, it was right for Morgan McSweeney to resign. He wasn't elected, and he clearly made a major error in his role as Chief of Staff, which acts as the senior-most adviser, gatekeeper, and operational manager for the PM, who was elected and has a job to do. It also isn't lost on me that despite many extolling Mr McSweeney's masterful election campaign, it wasn't just like shooting fish in a barrel after the disaster movie we had been watching for several years as the Tories went down like the Poseidon.

So, what now? Well, I hope that the PM having unhitched himself from someone who possibly had a touch of the Dunning-Kruger (look it up), was not at all as experienced as Sue Gray - who he ousted in a bloodless coup - can demonstrate that he is a man of honour, sound judgement and ultimate professionalism, because that is what we

need in Downing Street.

Let's not forget that Sir Kier is a lawyer. None of the lawyers I have ever worked with has had their work supervised by a marketing graduate, and I have said for years, all the way through the Boris years, that PR people are running the country. It has to stop.

Get Brexit Done Take Back Control For the Many, Not the Few Labour Isn't Working Not Flash, Just Gordon

Slogans and marketing are not the foundation upon which to run a complex organisation. Their purpose is simply to campaign and grow party membership, and, ideally, to get their party into office.

That's it.

The marketers should not be advising the leaders once they are elected.

Absolutely not! Give them some taxi fare and leave them in the pub when they've done their job; that's what I say.

In the real world, businesses should be gearing up for the rollout of the first tranche of employment reforms in April this year.

- From 6th April 2026, SSP becomes a Day 1 right, removing the 3-day waiting period and the lower earnings limit, making it available to all workers from the first day of sickness.
- Paternity leave and unpaid parental leave will be available from the first day of employment, removing previous qualifying service requirements.
- A new enforcement body will be established to handle holiday pay, sick pay, and other employment rights.
- The maximum protective award for failing to consult on collective redundancies doubles from 90 to 180 days' gross pay.
- Introduction of electronic and workplace balloting, and simplified procedures for recognition.
- Whistleblowing protections are strengthened to include complaints regarding sexual harassment.
- Bereaved partners: New rights for leave for bereaved fathers and partners.

Are you ready? Sorry, that sounded a bit slogan-y...



Keir Starmer forced out Morgan McSweeney due to the Peter Mandelson scandal to buy time under the pressure of resignation, which dominated the front pages of British newspapers

Explosions at EfW plants prompt warning from ESA

The sale and misuse of large nitrous oxide cylinders is putting waste workers in danger and harming essential waste processing facilities in the UK. Energy from Waste (EfW) plants can face up to six significant explosions from these cylinders every day, costing over £1.5 million in damage at a single plant each year.

About 60 EfW plants operate across the UK, processing large amounts of waste for local councils. Many of these facilities are run by the Environmental Services Association (ESA).

Even though nitrous oxide became a Class C drug in November 2023, making it illegal to possess without a valid reason, the number of large cylinders arriving at plants has increased sharply.

The ESA believes that more drug dealers and users are shifting from small cartridges to larger cylinders. People caught with large cylinders can claim they have a legitimate reason for having them, making enforcement difficult.

Nitrous oxide has some legal uses, such as in medical settings and food preparation, but outside these areas, there is little legitimate demand. Still, sales of commercial-grade cylinders are rising, especially large pressurised ones that contain 600-700g of gas.

These cylinders can be easily bought

The ESA say there has been a surge in large nitrous oxide cylinders arriving at plants in recent years



online with few checks, despite regulations meant to prevent this. Once empty, they remain hazardous and should be disposed of properly, but many get discarded improperly, posing safety risks.

The ESA says immediate action is needed. Regulators should enforce strict checks on retailers and require clear disposal instructions on the cylinders. They also suggest providing amnesty containers at events.

In the medium term, the Government should ban the retail sale of large pressurised cylinders, limiting their sale to legitimate commercial users. Longer term, once access is restricted, a deposit return scheme or Radio Frequency Identification

(RFID) tagging could help track and recycle cylinders safely, along with strict enforcement to stop illegal sales.

Charlotte Rule, Head of Climate and Energy Policy at the ESA, stated that despite advancements in AI detection systems, the issue persists, risking worker safety and infrastructure. She urged the Government to enforce a ban on the retail sale of large cylinders for safety reasons.

A government spokesperson responded, emphasising the dangers of nitrous oxide abuse, indicating that suppliers must prevent sales for recreational use and that local councils have the legal authority to take action against illegal disposal.

Encyclis gets go ahead for carbon capture at Bedfordshire site

Encyclis has received permission to build a full-scale carbon capture plant at its Rookery South Energy Recovery Facility in Bedfordshire. This is a major step in the company's effort to reduce carbon emissions in the UK waste sector.

Central Bedfordshire Council approved the construction of the capture unit and related infrastructure on land next to the existing facility, overcoming a major regulatory challenge.

This decision follows an agreement last October between Encyclis and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, which aims for financial backing for the UK's first full-scale carbon capture project at an energy-from-waste plant in Protos, Cheshire. Together, these projects make Rookery South the second facility to use carbon capture in Encyclis' Midlands area, which the company believes is key to expanding this technology.

Rookery South has already supported early developments; it is home to one of the UK's first carbon-capture pilot plants in the waste sector. The facility has processed two million tonnes of waste since it opened in January 2022.

Mark Burrows-Smith, the chief executive of Encyclis, stated that obtaining planning permission for Rookery South is a significant achievement toward their goal of reducing carbon emissions from waste treatment. He noted that, along with Protos, the company now has enough permissions to capture CO₂ equivalent to the

fossil fuel emissions from its Midlands operations.

The Bedfordshire facility can handle up to 657,000 tonnes of waste each year and generates around 60 megawatt hours of electricity for the National Grid while recovering ash and metals for reuse. Encyclis believes that carbon capture could also help remove carbon from the atmosphere, given the biogenic content of its waste.



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The skip hire industry is full of noise. Here's what the signal says

DANIEL HOLLOWAY

Founder of GRAFTT



Ask any legitimate skip hire operator what keeps them up at night, and the answer is rarely operational. It's existential. Why are we being undercut by businesses that don't carry the costs of compliance? Why does the customer treat us like a commodity when we're the ones doing it properly?

The frustration is real, widespread, and justified. Across the UK, operators who have invested in licensing, insurance, proper disposal routes, and trained staff are watching their margins compress - not because they're running bad businesses, but because the market cannot distinguish them from those who aren't.

That is the core problem. Legitimacy has no signal.

When a customer books a skip, through a search engine, a broker or a local recommendation, they are surrounded by noise. Dozens of listings, dozens of prices, almost no reliable way to verify who they're actually hiring. Is the operator licensed? Will the waste reach a legitimate facility or a layby three miles away? The customer doesn't understand and can't tell. So price becomes the main factor.

This is what creates the race to the bottom.

When signal is absent, price fills the vacuum. And when price is the only differentiator, the operators cutting corners will always win.

The industry has been calling for better enforcement for years. It's a reasonable ask. Based on all available evidence, it's also an unreliable one. Enforcement moves slowly - waste crime doesn't.

So the question shifts. If enforcement cannot create a level playing field, what does?

The answer isn't more regulation. It's better information.

Most people hiring a skip have no framework for evaluating who they're actually buying from. Licensing status, compliance credentials, disposal standards - these things are invisible at the point of purchase, so they're ignored. The information simply isn't surfaced in a way that makes it usable. Until it is, price remains the default decision-maker, and compliant operators continue paying the cost of that information gap.

The skip hire industry has also been operating without structured intelligence about itself. Pricing trends, margin pressures, risk sentiment, regional variation - that information exists inside thousands of businesses but has never been gathered, verified, and made actionable at an industry level. Operators are navigating significant headwinds largely on instinct, in a market that increasingly rewards evidence-based decisions.

The businesses that will define the next decade of this industry are the ones that understood early that in a noisy market, signal is the only sustainable advantage. The industry's foundations are stronger than its reputation suggests.

The gap isn't in the quality of the businesses. It's in the market's ability to recognise them.

DWT: Mandatory reporting now set for October 2027

Reporting through Digital Waste Tracking (DWT) will become mandatory for ALL required operators starting in October 2027.

DWT aims to replace the existing, mostly paper-based reporting requirements under the Duty of Care.

This initiative is a UK-wide effort, and while waste policy is a devolved matter, the UK Government and devolved administrations have agreed to collaborate on implementing a single, cohesive waste tracking service across the UK.

Phase one of the service is currently in progress and applies to all waste received at permitted facilities engaged in waste activities. The new system will be available to all operators on a voluntary basis starting next month.

Phase two will begin later this year and will extend the service to those involved in arranging waste movements and transporting waste. This phase primarily concerns waste carriers, brokers, dealers, and exporters, which will help establish full-chain tracking.

The Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (Defra) has confirmed that the mandatory rollout of the service will take place in October 2027, rather than April 2027 as previously planned.

The new system will require detailed data to be submitted for each waste transfer, including classification codes, movement references, and treatment outcomes.

David Gudgeon, Head of External Affairs at Reconomy Connect, commented on the announcement: *"We expect the industry will welcome this additional delay. DWT represents the single most significant and comprehensive digital transformation the entire waste management ecosystem has ever faced, so it is imperative that the rollout is executed properly."*

"Phase one of the legislation will affect 12,000 waste site operators, with testing already underway. Phase two will impact the 300,000 registered waste carriers, brokers, and dealers operating across the four UK nations."

"The vast majority of these businesses are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), so an extension will provide them with extra time to prepare for the essential work needed for a fully digital, compliant system."

Please mention *Skip & Waste* magazine when replying to any adverts

A hidden tax on green packaging? UK companies face £1.2bn recycling bill as compliance costs soar

Environmental policy experts at Ecoveritas have warned that the UK manufacturing sector is facing increasing uncertainty around recycling, as new analysis shows the cost of complying with government-backed regulations is soaring by millions of pounds every year.

Ecoveritas, which has advised major British manufacturers on environmental regulations since 2003, has warned that current regulations are creating significant concern among producers, with widening cost volatility threatening to undermine confidence in recycled materials.

It is thought that UK businesses will face a collective bill of over £1.2bn this year to comply with a raft of new and existing compliance schemes, including the Packaging Recovery Note (PRN) system.

First introduced in 1998, PRNs allow large businesses to demonstrate compliance with recycling requirements by purchasing “credits” proving the materials they use have been recycled. PRNs can be traded between companies, with prices influenced by material availability, infrastructure capacity and regulatory demand.

2025 data collected by Ecoveritas shows that, across the year, PRN prices showed exceptional volatility, with values fluctuating by as much as seven times within the same compliance year. PRNs for plastics ranged between approximately £62 to £440 per tonne (609%), for steel from £3.50 to £21 (500%), and for paper from £60 to £110 (83%).



James Walkerdine, Managing Director of Ecoveritas (pictured), said: “The cost of compliance is being felt more heavily by producers at a time when regulations are getting stricter, and the price of doing business is also going up.”

“This is making it harder for businesses to plan and invest with confidence, particularly when companies are endeavouring to use more sustainable and recycled materials.”

Based on its analysis of packaging data across the sector, Ecoveritas estimates that PRNs could generate approximately £600m in total market value in 2026, roughly double the 2024 estimate. However, industry modelling suggests that the full cost of compliance could surpass £1.2bn in 2026.

The firm has warned that rapidly rising costs may undermine confidence and investment in recycled materials if not supported by clear data and supply chain understanding.

“Where data assessment and commercial outcomes sit closely together, there is a potential risk that incentives may not always be fully aligned,” James added.

“Clearer governance and role definition would strengthen trust, reduce unnecessary cost inflation and support the long-term credibility of the UK’s recycling system.”

“When businesses fully understand how packaging flows through their supply chains, they can ensure they are paying what they should, no more and no less.”

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Grayson celebrates 10,000th cooling pack milestone on Dennis Eagle Elite platform

Grayson Thermal Systems has reached a major production milestone on one of its longest-running programmes with Dennis Eagle, delivering the 10,000th engine cooling pack for the manufacturer's Elite Euro 6-compliant refuse collection vehicle (RCV) platforms.

The milestone highlights a partnership spanning more than 20 years, during which Grayson has consistently supported Dennis Eagle across multiple vehicle platforms. The Birmingham heating and cooling specialist began supplying its coolers for the Elite 2 Euro 5 in 2005, continuing through to the Euro 6-compliant Elite 6, launched in 2014, and its Elite+, launched in 2022.

Developed to meet stringent Euro 6 emissions standards and enhance driver safety through a low-entry, direct-vision cab, the Elite 6 and Elite+ platforms are powered by the Volvo Penta MDE8 280HP and 320HP diesel engines. Grayson was re-selected in 2012 to design and manufacture a bespoke, compact under-cab cooling module capable of maintaining thermal stability under the demanding stop-start conditions typical of urban waste collection operations.

Building on its proven experience from the Elite 2 project, Grayson engineered the new system to deliver reliable thermal performance within challenging packaging and airflow constraints. Since entering production, the Grayson-designed cooler has demonstrated exceptional reliability and durability, supporting municipal and commercial fleets worldwide.

Today, the purpose-built cooling pack continues to feature across Dennis Eagle's

Euro 6 vehicle range, with more than 1,000 units produced in 2025 alone.

Commenting on the milestone, Stuart Hateley, Managing Director at Grayson, said: "Reaching 10,000 units supplied to Dennis Eagle is a proud moment for everyone at Grayson. It reflects not just the success of a single product, but the strength of a partnership built on trust, consistency and shared standards of quality."

"Dennis Eagle is recognised as one of the most respected names in the refuse vehicle sector, and we're proud to have supported them over the past 20 years as a dependable and responsive supplier."

Chris Benton, Head of Purchasing and Supply Chain at Dennis Eagle, said: "Grayson has consistently delivered high-quality cooling solutions that meet the rigorous demands of our refuse collection vehicles, helping to ensure our customers' fleets operate efficiently and safely. Grayson's thermal management expertise and its team's commitment to outstanding engineering, quality and reliability have made it a valued supplier. Achieving the 10,000-unit milestone and sustaining a partnership for over two decades underscores the strength and excellence of this collaboration."

The milestone underlines Grayson's ongoing role as a trusted international supplier of engineered cooling systems to OEMs. Over its two-decade partnership with Dennis Eagle, Grayson has also supplied systems for vehicles operating as far afield as Australia and New Zealand, demonstrating the company's ability to deliver dependable thermal management solutions on a global scale.



Competition opens to name new bin lorries

Whether it's a celebrity moniker like 'Bin Diesel' or a local nod such as the 'Kirkstall Crusher', almost anything is welcome.

Divert's iconic purple bins, vans and trucks can be seen across the Yorkshire area helping to clean up waste from Bradford to Harrogate.

Two new lorries will join the fleet in April and May, respectively, and the Leeds-based company now wants the public's help naming them.

The winning names will be added to the cabs of each of the trucks and announced via the Divert website and social media channels.

Who can enter?

Anyone from across the UK is welcome to take part, but we're especially keen for entrants from the community we serve across Yorkshire.

What are the rules?

No swearing or offensive names. Aside from that, feel free to go wild! The Divert team are keen to hear the best celebrity puns, local namesakes, and downright silly names the public has to offer.

Winners will be voted for internally, with the judges keen to see creativity and local pride in the entries.

The competition closes at 5pm on 31st March.

John Verity, Managing Director of Divert, comments: "Naming our bin trucks is a great way to bring some joy to the local community. We hope to bring a smile to the faces of passing drivers and pedestrians as our fleet passes by."

"Not only that, naming our lorries can help our drivers to take pride and ownership in the vehicles they drive and be a key reminder of our engagement within the community. We're always keen to employ any initiatives that help the public to engage with us and ensure we're seen as a friendly face in the area."





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Grundon wins Bristol Sport Group waste contract

Grundon has been appointed the new waste management partner for Ashton Gate Stadium and the Bristol Sport Group.

The Bristol-based company will be working across Ashton Gate Stadium and the Robins and Bears performance centres to improve waste handling, compliance, and recycling performance.

Bristol Sport Group Facilities Manager Max Wilshaw said: "We are delighted that, after a thorough tender process, Grundon are our new waste management partner."

"Grundon is a highly respected local company with a near century of experience. They will provide a high level of waste management service across the sporting group's sites, as well as supporting our sustainability goals to reduce our environmental impact through Project Whitebeam."

Grundon is the UK's largest family-owned supplier of integrated waste management and environmental services, with 15,000 clients across the country, including sports venues Silverstone Race Circuit, Ascot Racecourse, Twickenham Stadium and, locally, Gloucestershire



Grundon's Stephen Hill

Cricket and Forest Green Rovers.

Grundon's Stephen Hill, General Manager - Group Commercial Development, said: "We are delighted to be appointed as the new waste management partner for Ashton Gate Stadium and the Bristol Sport Group. We're looking forward to working closely with the

team to support their ongoing commitment to sustainability and greener operations."

Project Whitebeam, a joint effort from the Bristol Sport clubs - City men and women, Bristol Bears men and women, Bristol Flyers and Ashton Gate Stadium - recognises, measures and mitigates the Group's impact on the environment.



How new technology is transforming the waste management sector

Graham Flynn, Managing Director at waste management service provider Anenta, shares his insights on the key technologies transforming the industry across both the commercial and healthcare sectors.



Technology is playing an increasingly important role in the evolution of the waste management industry. Rising costs, stricter regulations, and increasing sustainability targets are forcing organisations to rethink traditional approaches, from how waste is collected and tracked, to how it's processed, repurposed, or reduced entirely.

With England's healthcare sector already generating 156,000 tonnes of clinical waste annually, and projections suggesting this could climb to 200,000 tonnes by 2029, the need for smarter, safer, and more traceable waste systems has never been greater.

The three most innovative technologies in waste management
1. Robotics and automation

AI-powered robotic sorting systems can now identify and separate materials with remarkable speed and precision, in some cases performing up to 6,000 picks per hour.

For businesses and local authorities, these systems significantly increase recovery rates, improve material purity, and help offset ongoing labour shortages. However, they remain a high-capital investment, typically costing between £500,000 and £700,000 per robotic unit, which limits widespread rollout to large-scale plants or long-term infrastructure projects.

In healthcare and pharmaceutical waste facilities, early-stage robotic systems are being explored for use in automated sterilisation and hazardous material handling, reducing human contact with infectious waste and ensuring consistent

compliance. While these applications are not yet mainstream, they highlight how automation could enhance both safety and sustainability in the years ahead.

2. Blockchain traceability technology

Blockchain technology is essentially a secure digital ledger that permanently records transactions or movements. In waste management, it can be used to track every stage of the waste journey, from creation to final treatment, in a way that can't be altered or falsified.

For organisations, this means complete transparency and accountability. Blockchain can verify where waste went, who handled it, and when, providing auditable proof for compliance and ESG reporting.

While adoption is still at an early stage, blockchain pilots are already underway in the medical waste and recycling sectors. As the need for reliable traceability grows, blockchain could soon become a cornerstone technology for sustainable and compliant waste management.

3. Advanced treatment and recycling technologies

Beyond collection and tracking, new processing technologies are making waste treatment cleaner, safer and more circular. For example, plasma gasification converts waste into energy with minimal emissions, while chemical recycling breaks down plastics into reusable raw materials.

These methods are being deployed in industrial and municipal facilities worldwide, helping divert waste from landfill and recover valuable resources. For businesses, this represents an opportunity to turn waste into a resource, reducing disposal costs.

In healthcare, compact on-site sterilisation systems are already being adopted by some smaller facilities, such as dental practices and clinics. These systems allow clinical waste to be rendered safe before disposal, cutting both transport emissions and environmental impact. While costs remain higher than traditional collection models, they offer a path toward lower-carbon, decentralised waste treatment.

The road ahead

Technology is no longer a 'nice to have' in waste management, it's a necessity. For organisations across sectors, embracing innovation now will be key to meeting both environmental and compliance expectations in the coming years.

EMS Waste Services expands fleet with four VDL hookloaders and one skiploader

EMS Waste Services, a leading name in the South West's waste management and recycling sector, has expanded its fleet with the purchase of four new VDL hookloaders and one skiploader, supplied through VDL Equipment UK. The investment marks a major step forward in EMS's ongoing commitment to fleet reliability, driver satisfaction, and operational growth across the region.

Two of the 4 VDL hookloaders have already been delivered and are on the road, mounted on Volvo FMX 32T 8x4 chassis supplied by Stuarts Truck and Bus, the Volvo Trucks dealer for Devon and Cornwall. Both vehicles have been

in operation for several weeks, with EMS drivers praising the VDL system's fast offload functionality and smooth performance.

"Our drivers love the new VDL hookloaders, and they deliver a real step up in efficiency for us," said Jason Parsons, Transport Manager at EMS Waste Services. *"VDL's design is straightforward, tough, and perfect for the demanding work we do every day. In this job, simple and reliable is usually best, and these new units tick every box."*

EMS has long relied on Volvo trucks for their durability and high ground clearance, gradually moving its fleet over to the FMX platform as part of



a modernisation programme. After trialling VDL demonstration vehicles, the company found the equipment faster to load and unload, with fewer mechanical complications than other systems on the market. The switch also came after mounting challenges with sourcing parts and servicing from other suppliers.

Brett Hickey, Sales Director at VDL Equipment UK. *"EMS took the time to test our equipment thoroughly, and we're delighted to see their positive feedback now validated in real-world use. We're also grateful to Stuarts Truck and Bus for their continued collaboration in supplying the Volvo FMX chassis."*

The addition of the new VDL hookloaders and skiploader enhances EMS's ability to provide reliable, efficient, and environmentally responsible waste transport at scale, as it continues to invest in its people, technology, and fleet.



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SCAN ME

WASTE(LOGICS)

Digital Waste Tracking is expected. The real shift is what comes next

HENRY BUTCHER

Head of Business
Development,
Waste Logics



Digital Waste Tracking (DWT) is currently one of the most talked-about developments in the sector. Operators are reviewing systems, asking suppliers questions and preparing for what full digital reporting will require.

Compliance matters, and transparency benefits the industry. But for most businesses already using software, the ability to record waste movements digitally is not the differentiator. It is simply expected.

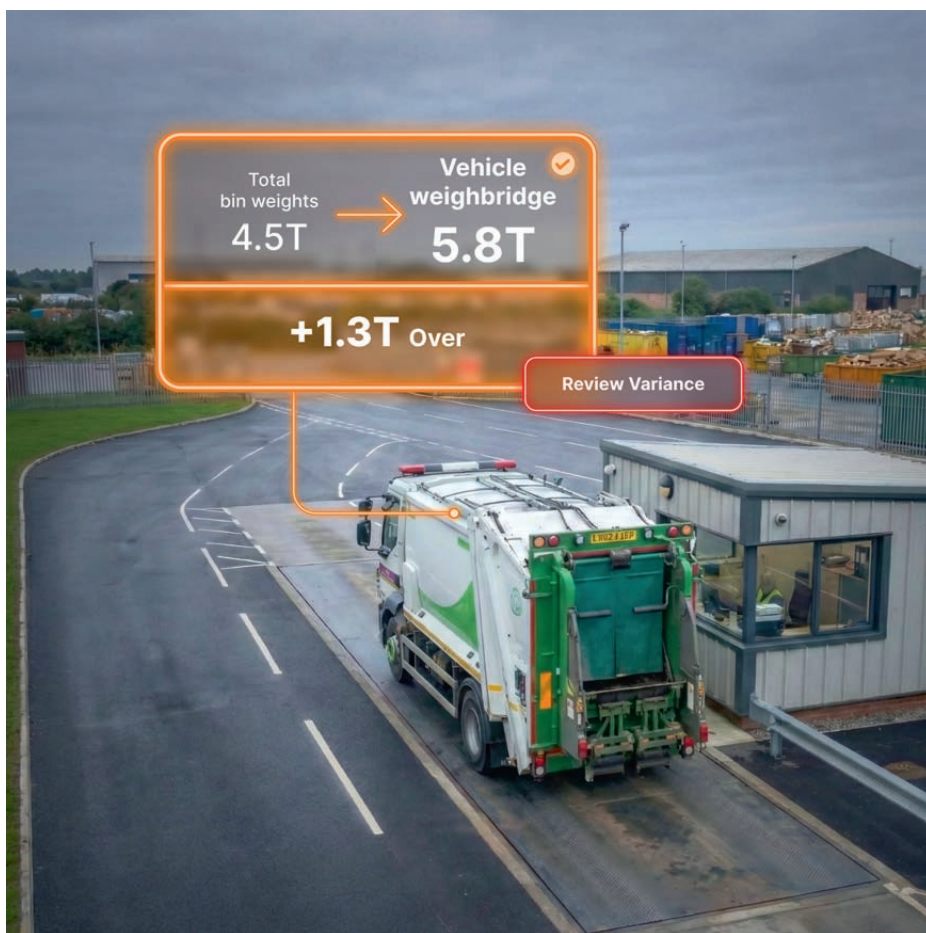
When I speak to operators, the conversation rarely stops at whether a system can log the movement. The more important question is what the system does beyond that.

Where the real strain lies

Most platforms on the market today are capable of handling operational complexity. They can reliably process jobs, manage containers, and generate invoices. In that sense, digital tracking is not technically difficult. For a native cloud platform like Waste Logics, it is simply another data output that the system already captures in real time. Updates can be rolled out instantly, with no downtime and no on-site installation.

But recording what happened is not where the real strain lies.

The strain lies in everything that surrounds it.



Whether it's knowing if the right skip will be available when a customer is placing the order, or being confident

rounds are profitable, the pressure points are similar.

A driver tips a load. The yard has

"The fact that we can see discrepancies between expected and actual weights as soon as the driver tips, rather than days later in a report, has really enhanced how we manage operations. It gives us immediate insight into where something isn't adding up, whether that's unexpected waste, missed charges, or lifts being carried out outside the agreed schedule."

Mitch Brown, Co-Managing Director, Brown Recycling Limited

WHAT OPERATORS ARE ASKING FOR NOW:

-  **Predicted container and material availability across the operation, not just current yard levels;**
-  **Issues raised and dealt with during the round, not at end-of-day handover;**
-  **Clear visibility of job profitability before invoices are created, not weeks later when someone is analysing reports.**

captured the non-compliance, but the office hasn't addressed it. The driver can't recall the details days later. The customer has already been invoiced. What could have been evidenced proactively moments after tipping becomes lost revenue, because it is easier not to charge than to reopen the conversation later.

Drivers make judgement calls throughout the day. Planners adjust schedules constantly. Containers are swapped. Loads are not what was expected. Disposal costs fluctuate. By the time it shows up in a report, the margin has already shifted.

None of this is a software failure. It is the nature of running waste operations at scale.

In practical terms, that shift means highlighting a repeat "bin not out" report at the same time each week, or flagging when container turnaround times begin to stretch beyond what's commercially viable.

Where things get missed

In many waste setups, data is captured correctly, but someone still has to piece together what it means. Non-compliance discrepancies are checked later. Container availability is often checked manually, rather than surfaced automatically during the day. Reports are exported and reviewed in spreadsheets. Experienced staff carry a great deal of operational knowledge, and the system records activity faithfully.

That approach works, but it leaves room for friction and is often very time-consuming.

"Digital tracking tells you what moved. Intelligent workflow helps you understand what it means."

Geeta Chandra, Founder & CEO, Waste Logics

What we are seeing now is a shift in expectation. Operators are beginning to look for systems that surface issues for them, rather than leaving them to spot it manually. If lifts are happening more frequently than agreed, the system should surface that deviation while it still matters. If disposal costs start outpacing what's been quoted for that job, it should be visible before invoices are created. If the same site experiences repeated issues, that pattern should not rely on someone noticing it weeks later.

From recording to understanding

This is not about replacing human judgement. It is about reducing avoidable mental effort.

When a bin hasn't been serviced for three consecutive weeks, the system should flag the pattern and suggest the right conversation to have with the customer, rather than leaving it to someone manually reviewing spreadsheets to spot. When disposal costs on a particular material begin creeping up week after week, the system should surface that shift before it erodes margin.

When a route consistently overruns its planned time, that pattern should

be visible before it becomes the new normal.

Building for what comes next

At Waste Logics, this has been our development focus. Digital waste tracking will be part of the platform as standard. It has to be. But the majority of our engineering effort goes into helping operators prevent small issues from compounding into commercial problems: structuring workflows so discrepancies are surfaced immediately, not days or weeks later; linking operational events directly to financial outcomes; and presenting information in a way that reduces the amount of manual checking and digging people have to do.

For businesses that are already operating digitally, that distinction is becoming more important than compliance alone.

Over the next few years, the software conversation in waste will not be about whether systems can log movements correctly. It will be about whether they can support better decision-making under pressure.

Ultimately, digital waste tracking is not the destination. It is the foundation.

Continuing the conversation

Waste Logics is currently working with operators across the UK to further develop its intelligent workflow and AI-powered operational reporting.

If you are reviewing your current system in light of digital waste tracking reforms, or simply exploring how to reduce manual reconciliation and late-stage problem-solving within your operation, my team and I are happy to have an informal conversation.

 **wastelogics.com**

 **henry@wastelogics.com**

Waste Logics provides waste management software to skip hire and trade waste operators across the UK, with a focus on reducing operational complexity and supporting better commercial decision-making.

WASTE (LOGICS)



Preparing for DEFRA's Digital Waste Tracking: How SkipTrak and MidWeigh from MidSoft ensure seamless compliance



The UK waste industry is entering a new era of regulatory transparency.

The UK Government, through the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), is launching its **mandatory Digital Waste Tracking (DWT) service**, going live in **April 2026** and becoming **mandatory from October 2026**.

This landmark reform will fundamentally change how waste movements are recorded, reported, and audited across England - with similar alignment expected across the devolved administrations.

At Midsoft, we have been preparing for this transition to ensure our customers can move to the new system confidently, efficiently, and compliantly.

Understanding Defra's Digital Waste Tracking rollout

The Digital Waste Tracking service is designed to replace fragmented and paper-based processes with a single, centralised digital platform for recording waste movements.

KEY TIMELINE

- ✓ **Beta registration - Available now**
- ✓ **Government service goes live - April 2026**
- ✓ **Mandatory compliance - October 2026**
- ✓ **Phase 1 - Applies to waste receivers**
- ✓ **Phase 2 - Will extend to waste carriers (expected 1-2 years later)**

Phase 1 focuses on waste receiving sites - including transfer stations, MRFs, recyclers, treatment facilities, and landfill operators - placing responsibility on them to ensure transactions are properly recorded within the government platform.

Phase 2 will widen the scope to include waste carriers, introducing additional reporting requirements across the logistics chain.

What Digital Waste Tracking means operationally

Under Defra's system, every waste movement must be digitally recorded with:

- *Accurate waste classification (EWC codes)*
- *Origin and destination details*
- *Carrier registration information*
- *Weight data*
- *Confirmation of receipt and processing*

Manual re-entry of data into the government portal would introduce administrative burden, risk errors, and create operational bottlenecks - particularly for high-volume sites. This is where integrated software becomes critical.

How Midsoft delivers seamless compliance

At Midsoft, our focus has always been operational efficiency backed by regulatory compliance. Our platforms - **SkipTrak** and **MidWeigh** - are being aligned to integrate directly with Defra's Digital Waste Tracking system.

SkipTrak: End-to-end waste management control

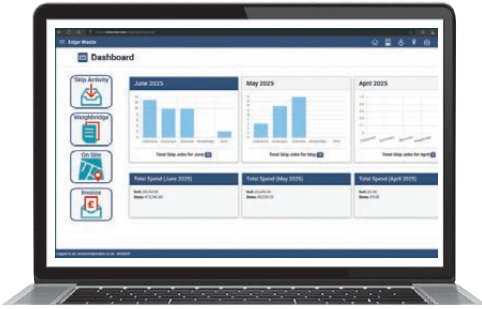
SkipTrak manages the full lifecycle of skip hire and waste logistics operations, including:



- *Job booking and scheduling*
- *Transport management*
- *Customer documentation*
- *Waste transfer notes*
- *Carrier information capture*

With integration into Defra's DWT system, SkipTrak will:





- Capture all mandatory transaction data at source
- Validate required compliance fields
- Automatically transmit data to the government platform
- Reduce duplication of effort
- Maintain a complete internal audit trail

This ensures waste receivers can remain compliant without disrupting operational workflows.

MidWeigh: Accurate weighbridge integration

MidWeigh provides fully integrated weighbridge management, capturing precise weight data directly at the point of receipt.

- Through integration with the government DWT service, MidWeigh will:
- Link inbound loads to digital waste records
 - Automatically update confirmed weights
 - Validate vehicle and carrier credentials
 - Ensure accurate, time-stamped receipt confirmation
 - Eliminate manual portal entry

The result is a compliant, automated process from weighbridge to regulatory submission.

How the integrated process works

When fully implemented, the compliant workflow will look like this:

1. Waste movement is booked in SkipTrak.
2. Required regulatory data is captured at point of order.
3. Vehicle arrives on site and is processed through MidWeigh.
4. Weight and load confirmation are recorded automatically.
5. The system validates all mandatory fields.
6. Data is securely transmitted to Defra's Digital Waste Tracking service.
7. Confirmation and audit logs are stored within your Midsoft system.

This seamless flow removes the need for separate government portal entry while ensuring full regulatory alignment.

Why early preparation matters

Although compliance becomes mandatory in October 2026, organisations should prepare well in advance.

Early benefits include:

- Avoiding last-minute system changes
- Training staff ahead of enforcement deadlines
- Identifying data gaps in current processes
- Participating in Defra's Beta programme
- Ensuring smooth operational continuity

Businesses that wait until the final quarter risk administrative pressure and potential non-compliance during transition.

Phase 2: Carrier compliance on the horizon

While Phase 1 applies to waste receivers, Phase 2 - expected within 1 to 2 years - will bring waste carriers into scope.

This will likely require:

- Real-time tracking of waste movements
- Carrier registration validation
- Extended chain-of-custody verification

Because SkipTrak already manages transport and logistics workflows, Midsoft

customers will be strategically positioned to adapt when Phase 2 requirements are introduced.

A partner in compliance

At Midsoft, compliance is not an afterthought - it is built into the architecture of our solutions.

Our approach ensures:

- Minimal operational disruption
- Automated regulatory alignment
- Secure and auditable data handling
- Scalable readiness for future regulatory phases

The transition to digital waste tracking represents one of the most significant regulatory changes in recent years. With the right systems in place, it becomes an opportunity to modernise operations rather than a compliance burden.

Register for Defra's Beta programme

Companies can register now for a Beta account with Defra's Digital Waste Tracking service. Early engagement will help organisations familiarise themselves with the system ahead of the April 2026 launch.

Scan the QR code to register an interest in using the service.



Preparing for April 2026 - today

Digital Waste Tracking is coming. The question is not whether to prepare - but how early. Midsoft, SkipTrak and MidWeigh are ready.

If you would like to review your current processes and ensure your business is fully prepared for Phase 1 compliance, our team is here to help.

If you think we can help streamline your operations and reduce admin time, we'd love to hear from you.

📞 01785 472472 📧 sales@midsoft.com

🌐 www.midsoft.co.uk or scan the QR code below to learn more.

Details are also available on the back page of this edition.

Let's simplify your waste management - together.



PLAN FOR COMPLIANCE NOW:

What Digital Waste Tracking means for your operation

Tim Woolven, Senior Product Manager for Access Weighsoft, The Access Group

If you run a transfer station, MRF, treatment facility or any other permitted receiving site, the UK's Digital Waste Tracking (DWT) legislation is heading your way. Paper tickets and scattered spreadsheets won't cut it once the rules switch on. The good news? Done right, DWT doesn't just tick a box - it simplifies audits and reduces rework.

In this article, I'll walk you through the essentials: what's changing, who's in scope and when, the practical

risks, what to put in place, and smart questions to ask a software provider before you commit.

The big picture: what DWT is and why it's happening

The UK Government is introducing a single, UK-wide digital service to track waste movements. The aim is simple: complete visibility from origin to treatment/disposal so that regulators can curb waste crime and everyone gets better data for resource recovery and

circular economy goals.

In plain terms, DWT is a digital record that you (or your system) submit to a central government platform. It covers hazardous and non-hazardous controlled waste, with harmonised data requirements to improve traceability.

Timeline - who's affected, and when?

A phased rollout is the plan so the service can be tested properly and the industry can adapt. You may see commentary about potential delays for

Digital Waste Tracking Service - Key Dates



Spring 2026

IT service to be available publicly for all permitted and licenced receiving site operators to use (public beta phase)



October 2026

Service mandatory for receiving site operators



Autumn 2025

IT service to be available to an invited group of users in increasing numbers (private beta phase)



April 2026

All home nations to have laid secondary legislation to mandate the use of the service by receiving site operators from October 2026



October 2027

Planned expansion of the service to other operators (details to be confirmed)

wider operator groups. The first legally mandated cohort remains receiving sites in October 2026, with broader groups following afterwards. Always check the **GOV.UK DWT** policy page for the current position.

The risks

The regulatory bar is moving, and the Environment Agency is serious about enforcement against waste crime. In recent years, regulators have shut down illegal sites and secured prosecutions and custodial sentences. For operators and their directors, fines (unlimited in the Crown Court) and personal liability are very real if you're not compliant.

What DWT actually requires (in operator language)

For **Phase 1** (receiving sites), you must capture and digitally submit key data for every incoming movement - typically at the weighbridge - and send it to the government via an API (a secure connection from your software to DWT). Core fields include EWC code, tonnage, carrier details, movement reference, date/time, destination/treatment outcomes, and hazardous/non-hazardous classification.

Critically, it's not enough to store this in your own system. You need the live digital submission (API, CSV or portal route) that creates the DWT record regulators can see. That's the compliance line.

Looking ahead to **Phase 2** (from October 2027), expect full-chain tracking to bring carriers, dealers, and exporters into scope - so your partners will need to be DWT-capable too.

What you need in place

Your system should integrate to DWT

Access Weighsoft gives you complete end-to-end control over your waste and resources business, from quotes to weighbridge to invoicing, now harnessing the power of AI. With a track record in the industry of over 35 years, our software is trusted by hundreds of operators to automate compliance, connect their operations and prevent uncertainty.

www.theaccessgroup.com/waste-management/

Questions to ask any software provider

- ✓ Are you in the Defra/EA beta programme, and with which customer sites? (Look for hands on testing, not promises.)
- ✓ Can you demo a live (or sandbox) API submission to DWT today? If not, October is too close for comfort.
- ✓ Which DWT data fields do you validate at point of entry? (EWC, carrier licence, movement ref, treatment outcome, hazardous flag, etc.)
- ✓ What's your plan if DWT specs change during 2026-27? (You want a vendor with an update path, not a static build.)
- ✓ How do you handle exceptions and rejected submissions? (Dashboards, alerts, audit trail.)
- ✓ What's your migration approach and training plan for weighbridge operators and back office? (Minimise disruption; avoid the "scramble".)
- ✓ Do you integrate with our weighbridge hardware/WMS/ERP? (Automated capture reduces errors and double entry.)
- ✓ What references can we speak to now about DWT readiness? (Early adopters are a good sign.)

via an API (or support a workable CSV/portal backup), validate entries, maintain a full audit trail, and surface exceptions in real time. Defra is designing APIs and data definitions so commercial systems can plug in; if you rely on bespoke tools or spreadsheets, insist on a credible integration route and proof it works.

Final thought

This isn't just another form to fill in. DWT changes the rhythm of compliance - from *"keep records and hope the audit goes smoothly"* to *"submit once, prove instantly."* Operators who lean in now will spend less time firefighting paperwork and more time running efficient, compliant sites.

access

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in minutes

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Compactors & balers

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Hillhead preview

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Material recovery facilities
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solutions

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Software for skip hire
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Quartix celebrates 25 years of fleet tracking excellence



Quartix, a leading provider of GPS vehicle tracking and fleet management solutions, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

What began 25 years ago with a vision is now a story of great success: Quartix has grown from a regional provider into an international business, with its systems now installed in over 800,000 vehicles worldwide and serving customers across eight countries.

With solutions including live tracking, journey reports, driver behaviour analysis and CO₂ reduction tools, Quartix helps customers reduce costs, increase safety and implement sustainable mobility.

"Our customers have always been at the heart of everything we do. We are proud to have supported them for 25 years," says Andy Walters, founder and chairman of Quartix. *"Reaching this milestone is a tremendous achievement - and I'd like to thank everyone who has supported us along the way."*

A success story spanning 25 years

Over the past two and a half decades, Quartix pioneered several developments, including:

- *Expanding its product and service portfolio: from simple tracking solutions to multifaceted tools supporting business fleet performance and compliance, such as customisable reports, integrated dashcams and a safety inspection app.*
- *Growing its team: from a small founding group of four people to over 150 dedicated employees today.*
- *Investing in new technologies and markets: to give more customers access to reliable fleet tracking solutions, with a range of device installation options and additional tools.*
- *Fostering long-standing business*

partnerships: the very first Quartix customer from 2001 is still using the system to this day.

Focus on employees and customers

From the beginning, Quartix has focused on people.

"Our employees are the driving force behind our success, and our customers guide us," says Andy. *"Our 25th anniversary is a reason to thank everyone for their trust, loyalty and continuous co-operation."*

Proven reliability at scale

Quartix demonstrates outstanding reliability across its growing global customer base, with 99.99% system uptime and just 0.08% of units requiring an engineer visit. Serving over 35,000 businesses, hundreds of which have upwards of 20 years' loyalty to the tracking system, Quartix's dependable service is reflected in consistently high customer reviews.

Product progress

Quartix offers GPS vehicle tracking and fleet management solutions that are characterised by simple installation, user-friendly software, and reliable hardware. In addition to real-time tracking and detailed trip reports, the offering includes integrated dashcams for greater safety, an inspection app for digital vehicle checks and temperature monitoring for fleets transporting sensitive goods.

Looking to the future

Twenty-five years strong, Quartix remains on course for growth after a record year and continued expansion, with a newly designed user interface on the way. By further investing in its technology and continuing to incorporate customer feedback, Quartix will stay one step ahead of the changing demands of the market and remain a key player supporting fleets for decades to come.

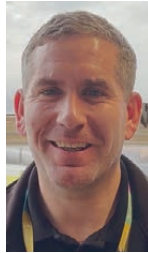
"The Quartix system helps us to remain one of the few councils to retain waste services in-house"

Dave Tobutt, Operations Manager, Guildford Borough Council

Middlesbrough Council enhances safety by implementing Fleetclear technology

Like many public sector fleet operators, Middlesbrough Borough Council was struggling to meet constantly changing government regulations while operating under ever-tighter budgetary restrictions. However, the council has risen to the challenge thanks to the impact of telematics, tracking and vehicle safety technology from Fleetclear.

Dale Metcalfe (pictured), Waste, Recycling and Enforcement Manager for the council, oversees the day-to-day delivery of waste services, paid-for services and the council's enforcement arm.



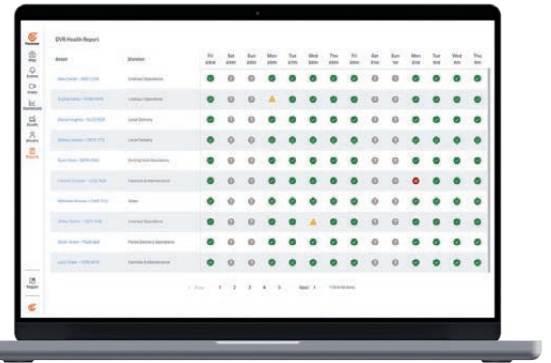
He explains: "Like many fleet operators, we were facing increasing pressure around health and safety and compliance. Fleetclear has enabled us to stay up to date with any changes, and the technology has also improved how we operate by helping us run our waste management fleet as efficiently as possible. For example, the telematics

functionality ensures we use the right routes and that all drivers follow the required legislation when on the road."

Middlesbrough Borough Council's refuse, recycling and van fleet is equipped with DVR Live camera systems, vehicle tracking, telematics and anti-rollaway technology. Data from all equipment is consolidated through the **Fleetclear Connect software platform**, giving the team visibility across all aspects of fleet operations.

Dale added: "The onboard camera systems provide drivers with a 360° view around the vehicle, which is particularly valuable when manoeuvring large vehicles in busy or hard-to-access areas. It also means drivers can see where operatives are at all times during collection rounds."

The council describes the transition and installation process as "very smooth". Ahead of the introduction of mandatory food waste collections this March, a new fleet of food waste collection vehicles, along with seven new recycling vehicles,



are due to arrive in Middlesbrough. All the vehicles will arrive equipped with safety technology, fully configured and ready for work.

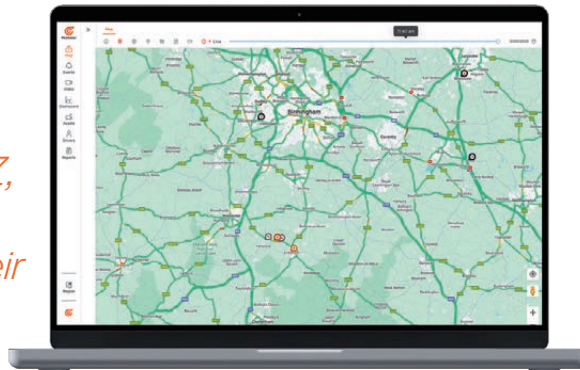
Council supervisors have access to a web-based, customisable dashboard, allowing them to view detailed information about each vehicle as well as individual driver performance.

Dale concluded: "We are also considering trialling a new Live Lane Information System (LLIS) from Fleetclear on some of our refuse collection vehicles. It uses AI to detect live traffic in adjacent lanes and activates a sign at the rear of the vehicle to alert crew members to approaching traffic."

Why Fleetclear?

With over 15 years of expertise delivering credible solutions proven in the field, Fleetclear helps fleets operate safely, efficiently, and responsibly. With fully qualified in-house engineers, leading after-sales support and comprehensive warranties, Fleetclear is your fleet safety partner.

Join the leading UK waste operators, including Biffa, SUEZ, and Serco who have streamlined their fleet operations



Ready to make a Seamless Switch?

See why councils like Middlesbrough are improving safety, compliance and efficiency with Fleetclear.



INSIDE THE TESTING PHASE:

Is your architecture ready for Digital Waste Tracking?

The transition to the **Digital Waste Tracking (DWT)** service is perhaps the most significant structural change to the UK waste sector in a generation. Introduced by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), this mandatory initiative is designed to replace legacy paper-based records with a unified, real-time digital system. With the **Phase 1 implementation deadline confirmed for October 2026**, the industry's focus has moved beyond the "what" and "why" of the legislation and toward the "how" of technical execution.

In this new regulatory environment, the reliability of your software's Application Programming Interface (API) becomes the single point of failure or success for your compliance strategy. **VWS Software Solutions** is at the forefront of this shift. Having secured a slot in the official Defra testing phase, VWS is currently refining the **PurGo** system's "handshake" to ensure that the 48-hour reporting window is an automated byproduct of your workflow, rather than a new administrative bottleneck.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF COMPLIANCE: A TECHNICAL Q&A

We sat down with the technical team at **VWS Software Solutions** to discuss the engineering required to bridge the gap between site operations and the mandatory Defra digital portal.

Q: With the DWT mandate now firmly on the horizon, what is the primary focus of the current testing phase?

"The focus has shifted entirely to the

robustness and scalability of the API handshake. It isn't enough to simply record data locally; the software must communicate with Defra's servers via a secure, high-availability interface. We are stress-testing PurGo's handling of complex Incoming Weighbridge Transactions to ensure that waste types, quantities, and movement details are validated and transmitted without latency. Our goal in testing is to ensure that by October 2026, the 'digital record' is a seamless, real-time event that requires zero manual



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

VWS
SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS



PurGo



intervention from the weighbridge operator.”

Q: The ‘48-hour rule’ remains a point of concern for site managers. How does the API architecture mitigate this risk?

“The legal requirement to report within 48 hours from the end of the day waste is received is an unforgiving window. For sites relying on manual uploads or batch-processed systems, the risk of non-compliance is high. Our API architecture is built for real-time synchronisation. By automating the data push directly from the weighbridge or the carrier’s mobile device, we eliminate the ‘data lag’ that leads to missed deadlines. The API doesn’t just send data; it receives an instant confirmation from the Defra service, providing a definitive audit trail within seconds of the transaction.”

ENGINEERING THE INTERFACE: HOW PURGO AUTOMATES THE MANDATE

The PurGo system is designed to act as a centralised hub, pushing operational data through a secure API to satisfy the DWT’s requirements for transparency and accountability. For waste experts, the technical strength of this integration lies in three core pillars:

1. Direct hardware-to-API integration

Unlike systems that require secondary manual data handling, PurGo integrates directly with on-site weighbridge hardware. This ensures that the primary data source, specifically Incoming Weighbridge Transactions, is captured at the point of receipt. By stripping away the manual entry layer, VWS reduces human error and ensures that the digital record matches the physical load with absolute precision. This is particularly vital for hazardous waste movements, where data accuracy is a legal priority.

2. The validation handshake

Before any data is transmitted, PurGo performs an internal validation check against Defra’s digital standards. The system cross-references mandatory fields: waste code accuracy, weight precision, and carrier registration details. Only once the data is ‘clean’ does the API perform an encrypted handshake with the DWT service. This prevents ‘dirty data’ from being rejected by the government server, a situation that would otherwise create an

administrative backlog and risk missing the 48-hour window.

3. High-availability error protocols

In a mandatory digital environment, connectivity loss is more than a nuisance; it is a legal risk. PurGo’s architecture includes automated retry logic and instant administrator alerts. If a sync fails due to an external network issue, the system identifies the bottleneck immediately and queues the data for the next available window. This proactive approach ensures that any discrepancies are resolved well within the legal timeframe, keeping your site in the clear.

THE ROADMAP: THE FINAL COUNTDOWN TO OCTOBER 2026

VWS is providing a clear technical roadmap to ensure that PurGo users are prepared long before the mandatory implementation date.

• **Consultation & data mapping:** VWS is currently working with partners to map current operational fields to the new digital requirements. This includes auditing current waste categorisation to ensure

SUPPORTING THE ENTIRE WASTE MANAGEMENT CHAIN

While Phase 1 focuses heavily on receiving sites, the DWT affects the entire waste management chain. PurGo is engineered to support **Waste Producers, Carriers, and Brokers** simultaneously.

- ✓ **Waste Producers:** Must ensure their records are created digitally at the point of origin.
- ✓ **Waste Carriers:** Require mobile-integrated solutions to update movement details in real-time.
- ✓ **Waste Brokers:** Must maintain a transparent digital audit trail of the waste they handle.
- ✓ **Waste Receivers:** Focus on Phase 1 weighbridge data reporting.

For the operator, this means that the ‘digital twin’ of a waste movement is always accessible and compliant, providing the transparency needed to combat waste crime effectively.

a 1:1 match with the upcoming digital registry.

• **Testing phase:** VWS will engage in live-simulation testing with Defra. This phase focuses on high-volume transaction stress tests, ensuring the API remains stable during peak morning and afternoon weighbridge rushes.

• **Final deployment:** Ahead of the October 2026 go-live, DWT-compliant API updates will be rolled out to all PurGo users. This rollout will be supported by technical documentation and site training to ensure a seamless transition from day one.

TRUSTING THE TECHNICAL LEADERS

The Digital Waste Tracking service is a fundamental shift in waste administration. It demands more than just a software patch; it requires a robust, API-driven architecture that can handle the complexities of modern waste logistics.

By focusing on high-level API integration and participating in the official Defra testing phase, VWS Software Solutions is ensuring that PurGo remains the industry’s most reliable tool for the digital era.

If you would like to learn more about how PurGo can help improve your business, then contact VWS Software Solutions.

☎ 0151 909 2009
✉ sales@vwssoftware.com



For more information, please visit www.vwssoftware.com – details are also available on the inside front page of this edition >>>



Bristol-based B&A Group secures BS EN 12620 accreditation

Heidelberg Materials UK's Bristol-based B&A Group is setting the standard for the use of quality-assured recycled 0/4mm sand in the production of ready-mixed concrete.

The company has received BS EN 12620 accreditation for the 0/4mm sand produced by the new wash plant it installed at the site in July 2025, which enables the recycling of excavated waste at scale.

"We are delighted to be one of only a handful of companies to reach the BS EN 12620 standard by developing a robust quality plan as part of WRAP Quality Protocol," said Helen Griffin, Managing Director at B&A Group.

"The 0/4mm recycled sand produced by the wash plant can be used to replace the primary aggregate in ready-mixed concrete, helping to meet the increasing demand from customers for more sustainable construction products."

Richard Wilcock, Recycling Director at Heidelberg Materials UK, added: *"Compliance with the standard for our 0/4mm washed sand is another example of our commitment to conserving natural materials and promoting the circular economy."*

"It is part of our strategy to enable our customers to build more, with less and another step towards achieving our aim to deliver 50% of our revenue from sustainable products by 2030."

In addition to the 0/4mm wash sand, the new B&A Group wash plant produces 0/2mm, 10mm, and 20mm washed aggregate, providing a comprehensive range of high-quality recycled materials and setting the standard for circularity in the construction industry.

B&A Group is a leading construction soil and aggregate recycling company and became part of the Heidelberg Materials family in May 2024.



Washed recycled sand



Recycling rates for aluminium cans reaches 76.3% across Europe

In 2023, recycling rates for aluminium cans in the EU, UK, Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland reached 76.3%, according to a recent report.

The report, produced by Metal Packaging Europe (MPE) and European Aluminium (EA), revealed that both the volume of aluminium cans placed on the market and the amount recycled increased year-on-year by 4% and 7%, respectively.

This increased recycling tonnage helped reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 5.7 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

Krassimira Kazashka, CEO of Metal Packaging Europe, commented on the findings, stating: *"We are encouraged by the latest achievements and believe the industry is on the right long-term path."*

She added: *"Aluminium is a permanent material and a circular resource whose inherent properties do not change, regardless of how many times it goes through the recycling process."*

MPE and EA noted that the ongoing rise

in recycled aluminium volume indicates an overall improvement in recycling performance, especially in countries that have implemented Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) for aluminium beverage cans.

For instance, when Malta introduced a DRS in 2023, the country's recycling rate for aluminium beverage cans increased from 50% to 80%. Furthermore, both Latvia and the Slovak Republic reported double-digit growth in recycling rates for 2023, following their implementation of a DRS in 2022.

Andy Doran, Director of the Packaging Group at European Aluminium, commented: *"Year on year, the evidence builds that well-designed DRS provide consumers with additional incentives to return high-value aluminium beverage cans for high-quality recycling, simultaneously creating opportunities for closed product loop and circular economy solutions within Europe."*

Please kindly mention Skip & Waste magazine when replying to adverts



AGGPRO representatives recently visited the ARJES Impaktor manufacturing facility in Leimbach, Germany, to strengthen collaboration and gain firsthand insight into the latest Impaktor technology. Pictured L-R: Adrian Scholl (ARJES Impaktor); Tom Elgin (AGGPRO); Norbert Hammel (ARJES Impaktor); Colin Wilkie (AGGPRO); John McArdle (AGGPRO); Sam Wilson (Wilson Plant)

"Although this is a new arrangement between our companies, our association goes back over 25 years through personnel on both sides. We are confident in our choice of partner and are sure end users will be very satisfied with both our products and the high level of service AGGPRO provides."

AGGPRO Managing Director Steve Peterson commented: *"We are already a well-established brand in the aggregates sector through our McCloskey International, Jonsson and GIPO ranges. This partnership strengthens our position within the recycling and environmental sectors, alongside McCloskey Environmental and Terracon. We are extremely proud to have secured the Arjes Impaktor dealership."*

To support the dealership launch, representatives from the AGGPRO sales team recently visited the Arjes Impaktor manufacturing facility and completed comprehensive factory training on the full Impaktor range. The team is now fully trained and ready to discuss customer applications in detail, ensuring machines are correctly specified for individual requirements.

With nationwide coverage, experienced engineers, and industry-leading aftermarket support, AGGPRO will provide customers with exceptional levels of service throughout the entire machine lifecycle.

AGGPRO appointed exclusive GB dealer for Arjes Impaktor GmbH

AGGPRO has been appointed the exclusive dealer for Arjes Impaktor GmbH across England, Scotland and Wales, strengthening the German manufacturer's distribution and customer support network throughout Great Britain.

Arjes Impaktor brings nearly four decades of innovation to the mobile shredding sector. Founder Norbert Hammel developed the first twin-shaft, slow-speed shredder in 1989. Over a 37-year career, Hammel has been responsible for numerous industry-defining advancements and is widely credited with the conception, development and production of the globally recognised Impaktor 250 and Impaktor 350 models.

The current Arjes Impaktor portfolio comprises five machines, with an additional two models in development. The range is engineered to deliver high levels of versatility across a broad spectrum of applications, including the processing of wood waste, green waste and stumps,

stone and concrete, demolition materials, municipal and industrial waste streams, waste tyres and scrap metal. This flexibility allows operators to deploy the machines across multiple sectors while maintaining consistent performance.

All machines feature the latest quick-change shaft cassette system and are built using premium components, including Volvo Penta and CAT engines, Bonfiglioli gearboxes and Rexroth hydraulics. This high-quality specification ensures excellent reliability, durability and long service life, even in demanding operating environments.

Commenting on the appointment, Arjes Impaktor founder Norbert Hammel said: *"This is an exciting announcement for Arjes Impaktor and will further enhance our activities in England, Scotland and Wales with such an established and strong partner."*

The new dealership comes 18 months after AGGPRO was taken over by SMT, the Volvo construction equipment distributor

AGGPRO

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McCloskey
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New reuse venue opens in North Shields giving unwanted items a second life

Unwanted items will be transformed into affordable goods for the community at a new reuse venue featuring retail space and a repair area.

North Tyneside Council is partnering with SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK and North Tyneside Big Local to launch Renew North Tyneside.

This venue will focus on repairing and restoring items for sale at low prices. It will receive donations diverted from the nearby Household Waste Recycling Centre, which SUEZ operates on behalf of the council. SUEZ will also handle the venue's daily operations.

Councillor Sandra Graham, Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency, said: *"Every day we see items thrown away that still have plenty of life left in them. Renew North Tyneside will provide a permanent space where items can be repaired if required and then sold at affordable prices. It will help our residents save money, cut waste, and give perfectly good items a second chance."*

Renew North Tyneside is located at Unit 30, Newcastle Quays, NE29 6DW and will serve as a central point for donating, repairing, and repurposing household items that might otherwise end up being incinerated to produce energy.

From furniture and homeware to small electricals, the aim is to give pre-loved items a second life while supporting families and



(Pictured L-R) Stephen Atkinson, Regional Manager, SUEZ recycling, and recovery UK; Laura Manley, Waste Strategy Manager, North Tyneside Council; David Carnaffan, Chief Executive, North Tyneside Big Local; Cllr Sandra Graham, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and the Climate Emergency, North Tyneside Council

individuals with cost-effective alternatives.

It will significantly reduce waste and the Borough's carbon footprint by promoting reuse and repair. The community area will develop skills through volunteering and repair workshops, whilst offering affordable items to local people.

Steve Atkinson, Regional Manager at SUEZ, said: *"We are delighted to be working in partnership with North Tyneside Council and community partner North Tyneside Big Local to launch this exciting project. Renew North Tyneside will prevent perfectly good items from going to waste by diverting them directly from the HWRC,*

giving them a second life and offering residents affordable options to shop sustainably. Working with a community partner to deliver repair skills on top of this is brilliant, and something we feel will bring real benefit locally."

North Tyneside Big Local will manage volunteers and develop the repair initiatives, helping to build community involvement and create opportunities for residents to gain experience and practical skills.

Profits from the shop will be used to support local charities and initiatives that support the environment in North Tyneside.

Glasgow City Council launches battery recycling campaign

Glasgow is encouraging residents to recycle batteries and vapes properly after a series of fires in the city's refuse vehicles.

The campaign, called 'Take Charge Glasgow,' is supported by Glasgow City Council and Scottish Fire and Rescue. It stresses that people should never throw batteries or vapes into regular household or street bins. Instead, residents should use the dedicated recycling points available at stores that sell batteries, electrical shops, and the council's household waste and recycling centres.

Batteries, vapes, and small electrical devices are believed to cause about 1,200 fire incidents in refuse vehicles and other waste systems across the UK. Lithium-ion

batteries, found in many common devices like mobile phones, game controllers, laptops, Bluetooth headphones, and vapes, are particularly problematic.

Last year, the council's waste vehicles experienced several fires, leading to burning waste being dumped on the road for the Fire Service to extinguish. One incident even closed the M80 motorway while firefighters dealt with large amounts of smouldering rubbish.

Concern is rising across the UK about the dangers posed by battery- and vape-related fires. 'Take Charge Glasgow' aims to raise awareness of this issue to keep the city's workers and public property safe.

Councillor Laura Doherty, who oversees Neighbourhood Services and Assets,

said: *"In Glasgow, we have seen the risks of throwing batteries and vapes in regular bins. We must warn people about the importance of recycling batteries correctly. One careless action can put our staff, vehicles, and properties in danger. Lithium-ion batteries can explode if crushed in a refuse vehicle or waste processing equipment."*

"I appreciate the support from Scottish Fire and Rescue for the 'Take Charge Glasgow' campaign. By working together, we hope to change how people dispose of batteries, vapes, and electrical devices."

For more information on the campaign and where to recycle batteries, vapes, and small electronics, visit www.glasgow.gov.uk/batteries

Design skills for embedding circularity - Leading UK waste management companies join CIWM & URGE Collective programme

CIWM (Chartered Institution of Wastes Management) and URGE Collective, a creative industries collective dedicated to system change, have announced that many of the UK's leading waste management companies, including Biffa, SUEZ, and DS Smith, will support their Design Skills for Embedding Circularity initiative.

Launched in partnership with Design Council CEI and WRAP, the pilot programme aims to strengthen links and secure sustained, positive communication and collaboration between the design and waste sectors. It aims to identify practical ways to design out waste, and design-in circularity in specific products and services, developing methodology for hands-on professional development in product, packaging and systems design focused on practical, systems-based circular processes.

A core element is field experience across a range of industrial facilities, including MRFs, Energy from Waste plants, specialised treatment sites, manufacturers and regenerative businesses, where designers will work alongside waste and resources experts to see first-hand how materials are processed and where design can improve circular outcomes.

CIWM and Urge Collective are delighted to announce that these immersive visits will include many of the waste sector's leading names, with BIFFA, DS Smith, Sherbourne Recycling, SUEZ, SWEEP, Tech Takeback and others opening their doors. To understand current approaches to both technical and biological cycles, the programme will also visit Elvis & Kresse, the circular luxury product company that recovers disused fire hoses, at their workshop and regenerative farm in Kent.

"Waste is a design flaw, and it's really obvious when you see your product in the waste pile in front of you. Designers need and want to understand how their product ends up in waste streams and what changes they can make to ensure circularity through repair, reuse, or material recovery. This programme is built around seeing is believing -



Sophie Thomas OBE FCIWM - Co-Director, Design Skills for Embedding Circularity

uncovering processes and knowledge otherwise hidden that we hope will open up opportunities for innovation, redesign and collaboration between the waste and design sectors," said Sophie Thomas OBE FCIWM - Co-Director, Design Skills for Embedding Circularity.

The programme will also include expert-led sessions, action-based learning, an innovation design sprint, and symposium to give the participating designers direct, practical insight into material flows, recovery constraints and opportunities for design intervention. Workshops and expert sessions will cover circular design principles and tools, carbon science, material impacts, reuse and repair strategies, product-service systems, packaging challenges, waste-sorting technologies, and evolving policy and regulation both in the UK and Europe.

The Design cohort has been selected through a process of application and interviews and represents the diverse design community in the UK. Learning is practice-led, and participants will apply new insights in a focused design sprint to

address end-of-life challenges, with the outcomes presented at a final symposium.

A key output of the scheme will be to build a case for government on circularity, collaboration, and green skills education, and the findings will be presented back to the sectors and government in the Autumn.

CPD and knowledge transfer

The pilot supports workforce capability-building as market and policy expectations shift toward circularity. Participants will gain practical skills underpinned by CPD endorsed through the Design Council's Skills for Planet Knowledge Transfer Methodology.

The project is intended to run as a proof of concept in England in this first iteration and has the potential to be national or global depending upon opportunities to secure future funding.

The programme is actively searching for interested partners and supporters. To find out more, scan the QR code.



Deliveroo launches compostable takeaway box

Deliveroo has launched a new takeaway box featuring a locking mechanism, designed by apprenticeship students from Sheffield Hallam University. This innovation aims to prevent food waste while also reducing plastic use.

The packaging is a result of Deliveroo's Sustainable Packaging Challenge in 2024, which invited students pursuing a Professional Packaging BSc to develop cost-effective designs that would maintain food temperature, prevent spillages, and enhance sustainability.

Apprentices Josephine Shaw and William Shaw were announced as the winners of this challenge. Their design utilises additional folds in the cardboard to create a locking mechanism that keeps products at the desired temperature and prevents food from spilling during delivery.

Produced by Biopak, the boxes are made from PLA-lined paperboard following the EN13432 standard. They are designed to be industrially compostable where facilities are available. Deliveroo argues that composting is a more effective end-of-life option for takeaway packaging compared to recycling, which can be hindered by food contamination.

These new boxes are now available to UK restaurants through Deliveroo's packaging webstore, and they are not expected to impose significant costs on customers.

Jen Bagshaw, head of Packaging at Deliveroo, stated: "We are constantly seeking innovative solutions to global challenges. Partnering with the talented



Josephine Shaw and William Shaw. Credit: Deliveroo

apprentices at Sheffield Hallam University has been an inspiring journey, allowing us to champion the next generation of sustainable packaging designers.

"By providing the platform and financial support to turn the students' creative vision into reality, we are excited to see this solution officially launch on our webstore for our partners to purchase."

William Shaw and Josephine Cooper, the winners of Deliveroo's Sustainable Packaging Challenge and the designers of the new packaging, remarked: "We focused on creating a locking mechanism that functions effectively in the real world.

We are proud to know that our work can now be used by restaurants, reaching customers' front doors across the UK. We hope this demonstrates that sustainable packaging can be both highly functional and cost-effective."

In 2025, Deliveroo's Sustainable Packaging Challenge returned, collaborating with Gail's Bakery as an exclusive partner. Students were tasked with developing a prototype cup for transporting hot drinks, with a focus on preventing spillages, ensuring the drinks arrive in the best possible condition, and incorporating sustainability into the design.

SATCoL to further reduce textile bank network around UK

The Salvation Army Trading Company (SATCoL) has announced plans to reduce the number of clothing collection banks across the UK. This decision follows an update in December when SATCoL paused its collection contracts with Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

SATCoL is the trading arm of The Salvation Army and one of the largest second-hand textile merchants in the UK.

Aaron Johnson, SATCoL's Director of Clothing Collection Division, said: "We are always really grateful when people make the effort to donate their clothing. There are still thousands of Salvation

Army clothing banks in operation, but we understand it will be frustrating if you visit one that has been removed.

"We want to reassure our generous donors that we are giving careful thought to any decisions to remove clothing banks."

SATCoL pointed to challenging market conditions that mean it is "no longer able to cover the full cost of collecting and processing donations".

As a result, the trading arm will remove more of its banks to protect its operations.

SATCoL uses the profits from the sale of second-hand textiles to fund The Salvation Army's community work.

Johnson continued: "We know that

you want your donations to go towards supporting vulnerable people, and reducing our clothing bank network will help ensure that your donations do just that.

"We are still in need of good quality second-hand clothing for sale in our charity shops and donation centres, and many thousands of these items are passed on to people who have very little or nothing at all."

The public can find their nearest open donation point or store by scanning the QR code and using SATCoL's map function.





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TRACEY WESTBURY

Director – Westbury Environmental Limited

Tracey has worked in the waste industry for over 35 years across all sectors. She now acts as a consultant supporting small - medium site operators providing advice and services in waste regulation including permitting, waste recovery, end of waste and environmental management systems.


 BUSINESS CLINIC

CONSULTANCY

The permit hasn't changed - but the way it is being enforced has

If you spend enough time working with waste site operators, you start to hear the same phrase repeated: "But we've always done it this way." In many cases, that's true. The permit conditions haven't changed. The site hasn't materially changed. The core activities are the same as they were five or even ten years ago.

And yet inspections feel different.

Over the past year, I've noticed what I would describe as a quiet shift in how permits are being enforced. Officers are no longer focusing solely on whether a condition is being complied with on the day of inspection. Increasingly, they want to understand the systems sitting behind that compliance. They are looking for evidence that control is embedded in how the site is run, not just applied when a regulator is due to visit.

This is where many operators are being caught out. It is no longer enough to say that waste is checked on arrival or that dust is managed when necessary. Officers are asking how you ensure the right waste is accepted every time. They want to see written procedures. They want to know how staff are trained. They want to understand what happens when something goes wrong. In short, they are testing the management system, not just the yard.

The publication of the *Environment Agency Appropriate Measures* guidance has clearly influenced this approach. The guidance sets out what good looks like in terms of infrastructure, containment, emissions control and accident prevention. Even where permit wording remains unchanged, expectations have moved. Compliance is being assessed against what is considered appropriate and proportionate risk control today, not

what may have been acceptable practice several years ago.

That can create a difficult position for operators. A site may technically meet the literal wording of its permit, but if drainage arrangements are unclear, dust suppression is informal, or fire prevention documentation is thin, the regulator may still view the operation as falling short of modern standards. The result is often improvement requirements, tighter scrutiny at the next visit, or, in some cases, non-compliance scores that come as an unpleasant surprise.

There are commercial consequences to this shift. More detailed scrutiny means more time spent responding to queries, clarifying procedures and, in some cases, upgrading infrastructure. Where weaknesses are identified, there is also the potential for intervention charges. For sites applying for variations or bespoke permits, any gaps in management systems tend to surface quickly during the determination process.

None of this means operators should panic. But it does mean that now is not the time for an Environmental Management System to be gathering dust on a shelf. An EMS should reflect how the site actually operates today. It should clearly explain how waste acceptance is controlled, how emissions are managed, how inspections are carried out and how incidents are recorded and reviewed. It should show that compliance is monitored deliberately and consistently.

When I carry out compliance reviews, the most common issue I see is not deliberate wrongdoing. It is drift. Procedures written years ago no longer align with how the site operates. Layout plans are outdated. Staff training



records are incomplete. None of these issues are dramatic in isolation, but together they weaken your position when the regulator starts looking more closely.

The permit may not have changed. But the expectation that you can demonstrate systematic, documented control certainly has. Compliance is as much about evidence as it is about activity.

Operators who recognise that shift and treat their EMS as a live management tool rather than a paperwork exercise will find inspections far more straightforward. Those who rely on "we've always done it this way" may find that approach no longer carries the weight it once did.

If you are unsure if your EMS will stand up to scrutiny against Appropriate Measures guidance requirements for your sector of the industry, get in touch.

We are happy to help.

Tel: 01952 879705.



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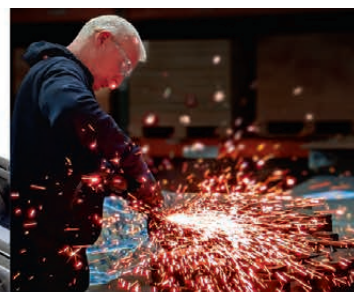
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SCAN ME



A brief overview of permit surrender of landfill and deposit for recovery sites in England (post 2001)

JESSICA MORGAN-SMITH

Partner at MPG, based in Bingley, Bradford and Skipton, North Yorkshire



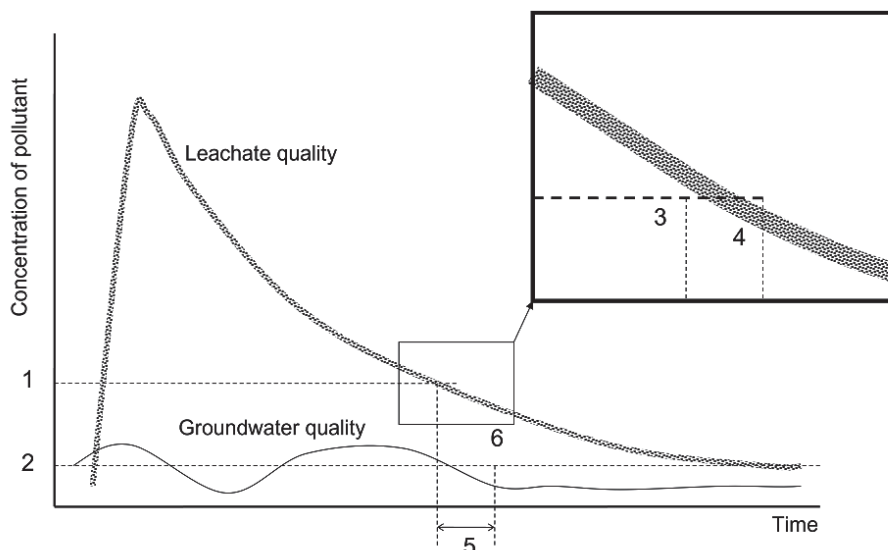
Surrendering an Environmental Permit for a landfill or deposit for recovery site in England is the final regulatory step in the lifecycle of an operation where waste has been permanently deposited to land. It marks the point at which the Environment Agency (EA) is satisfied that the operation no longer poses a significant risk of pollution and that regulatory control can be relinquished. But surrender is not simply a formality or a tick box at the end of a site's life; it is a risk-based, evidence-led process that should be considered from the day the permit is issued and throughout the life of the site from that point.

The first stage towards surrendering a permit is closure. When moving a site from the initial stage of closure to the aftercare period, operators must demonstrate full compliance with their environmental permit and meet the conditions set out in that permit before submitting a closure report to the EA for approval. Once the EA agrees the site is definitely closed, the landfill stops accepting waste, and the permit is varied to reflect its closed status, including updated monitoring and reporting requirements.

During the subsequent aftercare, the operator continues to manage, maintain and monitor the landfill in accordance with the approved closure report and permit conditions to ensure it does not cause pollution (this includes maintaining the cap and containment systems, conducting inspections and continuing environmental monitoring until the site meets the criteria for eventual permit surrender. The duration of aftercare varies according to site sensitivity, engineering and waste types.

There is currently no closure process or aftercare permit for a deposit for recovery activity.

Successful surrender applications



Review leachate quality data to decide when you can surrender your permit

are built on a robust system of record-keeping, consistent monitoring, due diligence, and planning. Operators must undertake a surrender risk assessment, which is effectively a detailed conceptual site model. This assessment draws on operational and aftercare monitoring data and must demonstrate that the risks are either eliminated or reduced to acceptable levels using passive control measures rather than active ones. Active controls (such as pumping leachate or extracting gas) that require ongoing intervention cannot remain if surrender is to be accepted.

The EA sets clear completion criteria for key areas:

- **Landfill gas:** Demonstrating that methane/carbon dioxide concentrations and flow rates have reduced to low and stable levels.
- **Leachate:** Evidence that leachate quality and volume no longer pose an unacceptable pollution risk.
- **Settlement and stability:** Confirmation that waste has settled

and slopes are stable. Unstable landforms will prevent surrender (for obvious reasons!).

A surrender application must include a surrender report that collates the evidence demonstrating the site meets surrender conditions. For parts of the site that were never used for deposition, a surrender site condition report is required. Plans showing the extent of the surrender area, monitoring results, risk assessments and documentation of any agreed changes to permit conditions are central to a successful submission.

The EA will ultimately approve a permit surrender only when it is confident that the site will no longer cause pollution, that any remaining controls will continue to function, and you have returned the site to a satisfactory state. This risk-based approach isn't always straightforward to achieve, but with early consideration and ongoing awareness throughout the life of the site, it is far simpler to demonstrate regulatory compliance when it comes to surrender.

Jessica has a wide experience of planning, permitting, operations, compliance, management systems and enforcement support.

If you have any queries about planning, permitting or compliance, please contact jessica@mpgyorks.co.uk or 07936359662.



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DR ANNA WILLETTTS

Anna is an environmental criminal lawyer, specialising in defence work in the waste and recycling industry. She is dual-qualified, having completed a PhD in geochemistry and worked as an environmental consultant for five years before qualifying as a lawyer.

Anna represents waste and recycling businesses and directors who are prosecuted by the regulators for environmental and waste offences.



BUSINESS CLINIC

LEGAL

Powerful legal tool: Use of the Proceeds of Crime Act

You may have read this recently in another publication, but I have created a shorter version here.

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) was designed to be draconian and rightly strip offenders of the proceeds of crime. It was introduced to remove financial incentive by depriving drug dealers of their ill-gotten gains. The Law Commission recently emphasised that the Act was not designed to punish offenders.

Such was the high-handed approach of the Environment Agency in this case that it caused a Judge to unusually speak out at the POCA hearing, having earlier commented that the Agency's

approach was 'deeply depressing' to say: *'It would be inhumane not to accept the defendant's offer [£201,743]. I have to rule as I must on the law as it is and not as I might wish it. I do ask the EA to go away one last time and think about if they want a public execution of this man to satisfy a few extra hundred thousand I invite the Agency to consider this matter seriously so that I do not have to make a decision which will make us all feel a little less human.'* These comments were made after the Judge observed that the Agency was seeking to use the legislation in a way Parliament never intended.

We applaud the Agency for using the



Proceeds of Crime Act

legislation appropriately. E.g., an operator prosecuted for six offences where waste totalling circa 25,000 cubic metres, including hazardous waste, was either dumped, buried or burned at a farm. There were 116 pollution incidents reported, and effluent leaked into the local water course.

The Court made a confiscation order reflecting criminal benefit of over £3M and ordered the defendant to pay £2M, which reflected the realisable assets. Under the legislation, the Agency was entitled to convert this confiscation order into a compensation order to fund cleanup costs, but this option was not exercised. The waste remains on site, and it is unclear whether any of the £2M has been paid.

By contrast, the Court described our client as a man of impeccable character. All Mr Orchard had known all his life was the scrap metal industry. He left school at 15 to join the family business, which his grandfather and father then ran. Over many years, the business has provided

Eurocell and Biffa expand PVC-u recycling partnership

Eurocell, the UK's leading manufacturer and recycler of PVC-U windows and doors, has announced the expansion of its successful recycling partnership with Biffa, following a highly effective trial designed to help the trade recycle more post-consumer PVC-U waste than ever before. The initiative, which has already

diverted over 85 tonnes of domestic PVC-U from landfill, will be extended to additional regions and locations throughout 2026.

Joy Naylor, Manufacturing & Recycling Director, said: *"Our partnership with Biffa has had a tremendous impact on our sustainability efforts, allowing us to divert large volumes of post-consumer PVC-U from landfill. This collaboration aligns perfectly with our commitment to a closed-loop recycling process, reducing waste and supporting a more sustainable future for both our customers and the environment."*

A significant volume of PVC-U from window and door replacements still ends up in landfill, despite the material being highly recyclable. Smaller installers and sole traders, who undertake much of this work, have historically had limited access

to practical recycling options, with PVC-U often being bulky, awkward to store, and ultimately treated as general waste.

To address this, Eurocell set out to make its products more sustainable by reducing virgin plastic content and offering customers a simple, accessible recycling route for post-consumer material.

Working with Biffa, Eurocell launched a domestic and small-load PVC-U collection trial in February 2023. Operating within a 30-mile radius of NE28 (North Tyneside), the service allowed installers to request collections via branches or phone, with Biffa's reactive fleet picking up material directly from homes, depots, and small trade sites.

Biffa consolidated the material at three regional transfer stations, soon to increase to 10 under the expanded partnership, before sending it to Eurocell's specialist



a valuable recycling service to the community in rural Cornwall. There were several character witnesses testifying as to Mr Orchard's honesty, trustworthiness and work ethic.

Mr Orchard had every intention to comply with the law, but he found himself under immense financial pressure when funding his father's cancer treatment. During this time, he cut corners by not having the furnace calibrated by a third party. Instead, he maintained the machine himself but supplied the same annual return to the Agency, with figures that gave the impression it had been calibrated externally. Had the Agency paid any attention to the reports at the time they were submitted, it would have been immediately apparent that the same annual report was being recycled.

Eventually, the false annual report was identified. In the circumstances, it is not surprising that the Judge commented that the Agency regulation of the site was 'shocking'. Thankfully, there was no evidence of any actual environmental harm.

This was the first time that Mr Orchard found himself before the courts aged 56 at what was an extremely difficult personal time for him, and yet he was treated by the Agency as a hardened criminal. His father, who had been abusive, controlling and coercive, was

diagnosed with terminal bowel cancer. Mr Orchard managed to extend his father's life by four years by funding private cancer treatment, but this also got him into debt. Alongside working as hard as he could in the yard to keep the family business afloat and fund his father's treatment, he was also the sole carer for his dying father, who would not permit anyone else to enter the house. He reached the lowest ebb in his life, and life events took a toll on his health.

When his father died, in accordance with his father's wishes, he had his father lawfully buried in the garden. Mr Orchard inherited the garage and the dilapidated house. There is no kitchen; he relies upon hot meals provided by a friend. This is not a man living the high life on any gains, but a man struggling to survive.

When his life story was relayed to the Court, you could hear a pin drop. This is the saddest and most emotionally draining case we have worked on. As soon as he was interviewed, he admitted his guilt at the first opportunity. The Agency then invoked POCA and sought to confiscate the garage, stock and family home, effectively leaving him homeless, without a business or any means to support himself. In summary, wipe out his life and erase his family memories.

Representations that pursuing

POCA in the circumstances was disproportionate and unfair were simply met with disdain. Given that the Agency appears to pick and choose which cases it exercises its discretion under POCA, we found it astounding that this case was deemed appropriate for the nature of the offence and the individual involved, given the exceptional mitigating circumstances. We were therefore extremely grateful that the Judge stepped in, injected some sense of reality into the case, and ensured that justice was done. During the two years it took to resolve the POCA, significant costs were incurred on both sides. The Court made no order for costs.

We hope that the Agency will reflect on this case and consider the Judge's comments regarding their discretion in the use of POCA in future matters. We also hope that, if there are convictions for Hoad's Wood, Kidlington, Wigan, etc., the Agency will seek POCA orders.

**GOT A QUESTION
ASK THE EXPERTS**

*Anna is 'Past President' of the
Chartered Institution of Wastes
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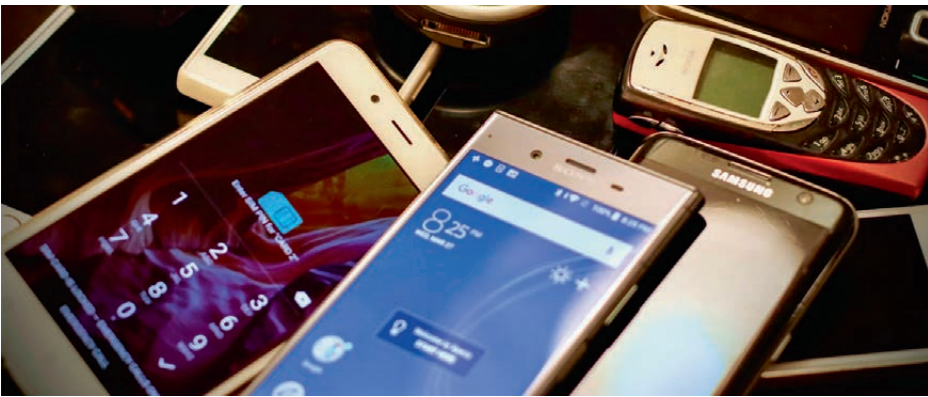
recycling facilities. The system was designed to handle everything from small domestic loads to bulk skips, opening up access to recycling for traders of all sizes for the first time.

The pilot delivered exceptional outcomes and proved fully scalable:

- **300 domestic collections completed with a 100% success rate.**
- **Over 85 tonnes of PVC-U recovered and circularised in the UK.**
- **Virtually all collected PVC-U is recycled, re-ground and re-melted by Eurocell for use in new window and door products.**
- **A fully circular, closed-loop model, with Eurocell funding collection and processing before using the recovered material to manufacture more sustainable, lower-carbon products.**

*For more information about Eurocell,
scan the QR code.*





Precious metal price rollercoaster amplifies value of UK WEEE recycling

*At the beginning of this year, gold and other precious metals experienced a sharp price increase before declining again, highlighting market volatility. Experts in Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) at **Business Waste Ltd** have shared insights into the significant impact on the recycling sector and the value of old technology.*

What’s happening with precious metal prices?
Precious metals are often seen as a haven for investors during geopolitical uncertainty, which is why 2026 has already seen a rollercoaster ride for precious metal prices.
Gold and silver first reached record highs due to instability in the Middle East and economic uncertainty. A significant dip followed in late January after Trump announced his pick for the next Federal Reserve Chair, which increased the value of the dollar.

Gold has since rebounded to around £3,550 - £3,600 per ounce, slightly below its late January peak but still well above where it was at the start of the year, reflecting ongoing demand for safe haven assets.
Why does this matter for UK recyclers and consumers?
Many of our electronics contain small quantities of precious metals such as gold and silver. In fact, according to the EPA, recycling one million mobile phones can recover:

Year	Gold	Silver	Palladium	Copper	Total
Feb 2025	£1.58	£0.20	£0.65	£0.12	£2.55
Feb 2026	£3.89	£0.79	£1.21	£0.13	£6.02

“The value of recycling your old electronics isn’t just about the metals inside; it’s also affected by world events. Changes in trade, politics, or global supply can push up metal prices, meaning recycled phones and gadgets are worth more.”
“This is good news for consumers, businesses, and the waste industry alike. More money can be made from recycling, there is less waste to manage, and it can justify increased investment in materials processing facilities and technologies.”
- Mark Hall, Founder & Director at Business Waste Ltd.

- 16,000kg of copper
 - 350kg of silver
 - 34kg of gold,
 - 15kg of palladium
- As prices climb, the economics of recycling these materials improve dramatically, making the recovery of precious metals from WEEE more profitable.
For recycling companies, this could result in:
- Investment in advanced recovery technologies. Something that is well needed in the UK, to improve recovery rates, capture higher-value materials domestically, and strengthen the country’s circular economy infrastructure.
 - Expansion of urban mining operations and collection networks.
 - Higher margins on recovered materials, strengthening business sustainability.

Total recoverable metal value per mobile phone 2025 vs 2026
The average phone’s recoverable metal value has more than doubled in a year, mainly due to the sharp rise in gold, silver, and palladium prices. (see table)

What does this mean for your old electronics?
Now is a strong time to consider recycling or take-back schemes. While metals remain volatile, the current elevated prices make holding old devices worthwhile only if you’re waiting for even higher returns, but acting now ensures you benefit from today’s strong market levels.
Businesses with higher volumes of WEEE can achieve greater returns by responsibly recycling old office equipment or surplus stock.

Everflow targets UK's growing electrical waste problem with new disposal service

Everflow, a leading multi-utilities company serving businesses across the UK, has launched a new Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) disposal service designed specifically to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) manage electrical waste safely and compliantly.

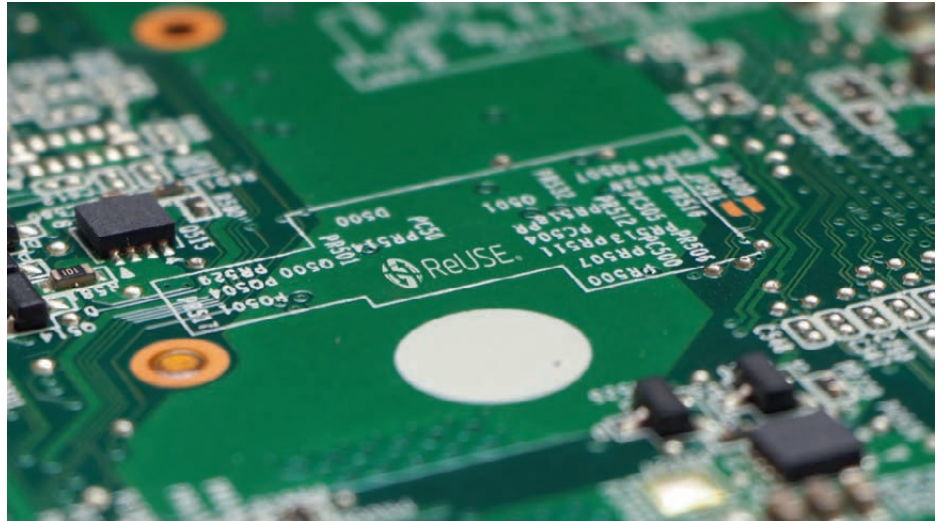
The new service, which is available across the UK, gives businesses a solution for the disposal of batteries, vapes and small mixed WEEE items, assisting companies in managing electrical waste responsibly, while lowering workplace safety hazards and meeting requirements with ease. The service is designed to support a broad range of sectors, including education, hospitality, hotels, and offices, where volumes of waste are increasing rapidly.

Electrical waste continues to be a growing challenge in the UK, with 1.3 million disposable vapes being thrown away every week, many of which contain lithium batteries that pose a serious fire risk if incorrectly disposed of. As a result, businesses are under increasing pressure to ensure electrical waste is handled safely and in line with recycling regulations.

With safety at the heart of the new offer, Everflow's purpose-built containers provide a compliant and environmentally responsible way to collect unwanted electrical items, helping to reduce the risk of fires and ensure hazardous materials are handled correctly. The service offers scheduled collections and full compliance documentation, meaning organisations can meet recycling regulations with confidence and minimal effort.

Suzanne Mitchison, Waste Services Director at Everflow, said: "By introducing a dedicated range of containers for vapes, batteries and small electrical items, we're making it easier and safer for businesses to dispose of this hazardous waste."

"The new service reinforces our mission to simplify utilities management and help businesses save time, reduce risk and stay compliant while freeing up valuable resources."



Fragile components: Supply chain 'old order' under threat, warns tech innovator In2tec

"We must no longer assume that the good faith, rationality, and common sense so many of us rely on will win out"

Electronics manufacturers must brace for unprecedented upheaval in global supply chains despite Trump's recent tariff climbdown in Davos, according to a leading UK sustainable technology company.

Emma Armstrong (pictured), Sustainable Electronics Ambassador at In2tec - a manufacturer of breakthrough technology that enables the reuse and recycling of electronic components - says the sector, which relies on imported components, must prioritise supply chain resilience and component security.

"The certainties that once underpinned our sector can no longer be taken for granted, despite Trump dropping plans to impose tariffs on European countries that oppose his ambitions for America to acquire Greenland," she said.

"Keeping tabs on rising costs and material shortages as the geopolitical climate fluctuates is no longer enough. OEMs need to begin a fundamental realignment of operations to reduce their reliance on volatile international supply chains."

"Sustainability has for too long been treated as a box-ticking green initiative to

put in the brochure and on the website, yet component reuse is now an important strategic issue for manufacturing, much in the same way the UK is investing in renewable energy to reduce its exposure to global price upheavals, such as the invasion of Ukraine."

Her comments come as Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney told Davos attendees the "old order is not coming back" and the world is "in the midst of a rupture, not a transition." He added: "Great powers have begun using economic integration as weapons, tariffs as leverage, financial infrastructure as coercion, supply chains as vulnerabilities to be exploited."

Emma added: "We must no longer assume that the good faith, rationality, and common sense so many of us rely on will win out. Modular components and repairable and recyclable tech can strengthen domestic supply chains while accelerating the transition to more sustainable electronics."

In2tec's patented ReUSE® and ReCYCLE™ technologies allow electronic components to be safely recovered, reused, and recycled at the end of life. By designing electronics with disassembly and recovery built in from the outset, In2tec is challenging the traditional "make, use, dispose" model that has long dominated the industry.



Landfill tax changes next month. Are you prepared?

MARCO MUIA, BSc (Hons) MSc MCIWM, Managing Director at Oaktree Environmental Limited.

Marco specialises in all aspects of waste planning, environmental regulation and training, including CIWM/WAMITAB COTC/OCC assessment.



BUSINESS CLINIC

ENVIRONMENTAL

Benjamin Franklin is famed for writing: “Our new Constitution is now established and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”

Whilst he probably wasn’t the first and won’t be the last to use a variation of the phrase, it could be applied to the landfill tax in recent years. As a significant source of government revenue, with reduced landfill tonnes, there was only one way the tax was going to go.

Whilst this year’s standard rate increase from 1st April 2026 will be a modest 3.65% up on 2025 rates, the overall increase since 2024 (from £103.70) will be a staggering 26.1% when the £130.75 per tonne comes in. More alarmingly, the lower rate will rise

to £8.65 per tonne, a 63% increase since 2024. The 2025-2026 standard rate in Wales for the landfill disposal tax (LDT) is £126.15, up 22% from £103.70 per tonne in 2024-25. Scotland mirrors the Welsh standard rate, but the lower rate is £4.05 per tonne, compared with £6.20 in Wales. The Welsh Government would do well to spend some of the tax on providing a decent website for landfill disposal tax, as the current site is awfully convoluted and hard to navigate when compared with the English site.

Call me a cynic, but has there ever been more of an incentive for criminals to move into the waste industry when they know that the likelihood of getting caught and fined is much lower than it is for “more serious crimes”?

I am dealing with sites at the moment where landowners have been victims

of illegal tipping, with waste deposited that is clearly shredded waste from a transfer station, and the regulators are slow to act, passing the responsibility for site clearance to the landowners. These aren’t people who have benefited in any way from the crime; they’re victims, so let’s have a grown-up conversation and deal with the issue. If current regulators are doing the job, take the waste crime job off them and set up something more effective, using landfill tax money.

The unauthorised disposal rates of an added 50 to 100% are not a disincentive to illegal actors. Do a search for “illegal dumps” and use Google Earth to see how much the worst ones have grown in the last two years, with nowhere near enough intervention.

It would also be nice to think that the money raised from the landfill tax could fund the regulation of waste sites, rather than the dysfunctional fee-and-charge schemes currently in place, which don’t reflect the cost of regulating sites. Is a single regulatory visit per year, with a £4,000+ subsistence fee, acceptable? A discussion for next month maybe?

As always, this rant is my opinion, and we welcome yours on this hot topic and others. Please get in touch.

If you have any questions about this article contact Marco on 01606 558833 or e-mail him at marco@oaktree-environmental.co.uk

**GOT A QUESTION
ASK THE EXPERTS**

Eriez implements regional growth strategy across Europe

Eriez®, a global leader in separation technologies, has expanded its European sales network as part of a broader regional growth initiative to strengthen customer support and accelerate responsiveness across key industrial markets.

This enhanced structure enables Eriez-Europe to deliver deeper technical expertise and more direct customer engagement. These local insights in the mining, aggregates, recycling, food, packaging, and other process sectors are essential to achieving consistent performance and reliability.

New appointments to the Area Sales Manager team include Simo Rounela (Nordic Region), Jean-Christophe (Benelux), Joerg Baldauf (Germany), and Philippe Vallouy (Spain and Portugal).

They join the established Eriez-Europe sales group - Lewis Railton (South UK), Gareth McCreesh (Ireland), and Manuel Andreis (Italy) - to provide cohesive coverage across the continent.

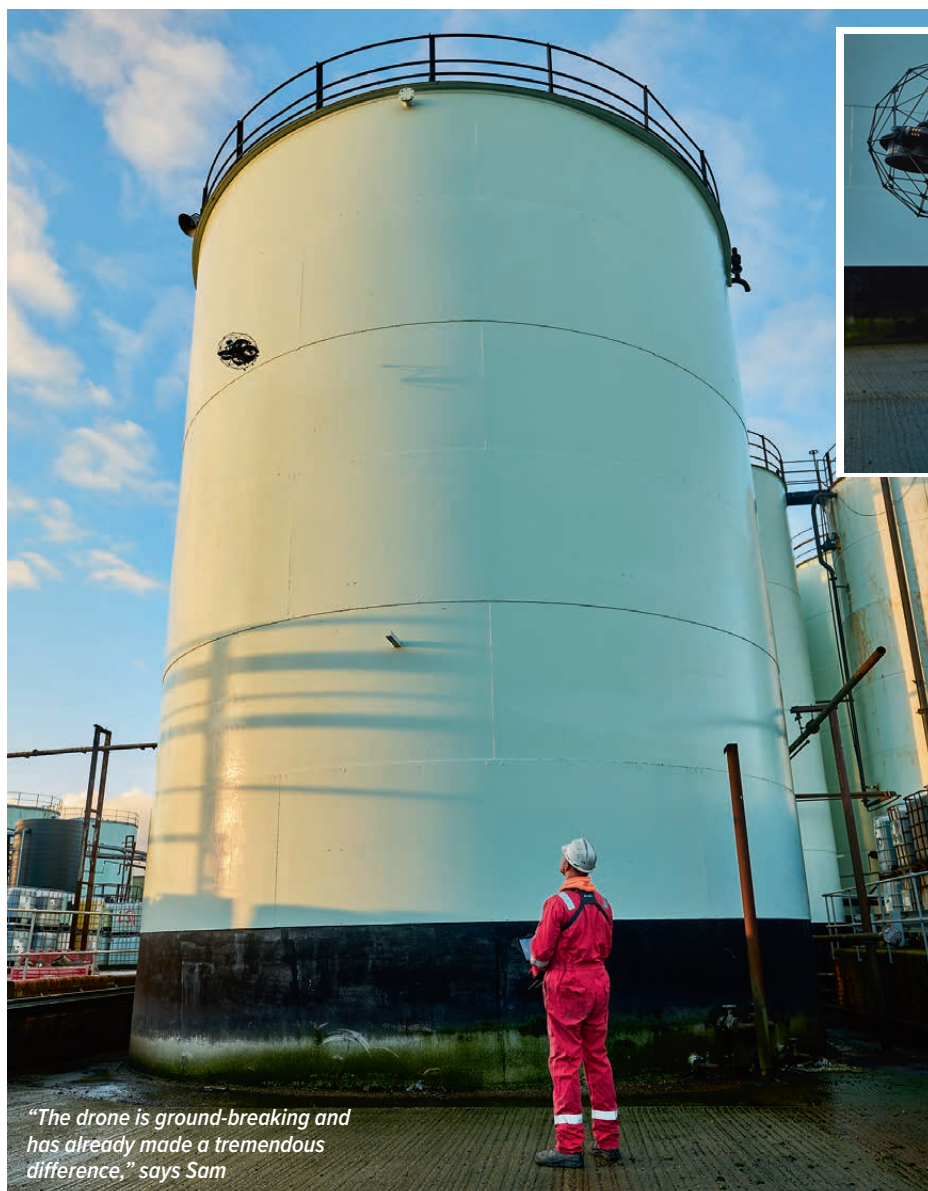
“Europe encompasses a wide range of industries, regulatory frameworks, and operating conditions,” said Lloyd Williams, Sales Director of Eriez-Europe. “Expanding our in-region sales presence ensures customers have immediate access to knowledgeable Eriez professionals who combine local insight with the company’s global engineering resources.”

This regional framework reflects Eriez’s ongoing strategy of integrating global innovation with localised expertise. By broadening in-territory representation, the company enhances its ability to collaborate

closely with customers from project concept through execution, delivering solutions that provide measurable value.

“This growth initiative is about strengthening relationships as much as expanding reach,” added John Klinge, Regional Director - EMEA Operations & Strategy. “With experienced sales managers positioned across Europe, we’re better equipped to anticipate customer needs, respond swiftly, and deliver technologies that advance efficiency and performance.”

Established in 1942, Eriez is a global leader in separation technologies. Its commitment to innovation has positioned the business as a driving market force in several key technology areas, including magnetic separation, flotation, metal detection, and material handling equipment.



CSG obtains storage tank assessor accreditation

Leading waste management specialist CSG can offer certified storage tank inspections for the first time - and has simplified the process by investing in a high-tech drone.

Sam Richards, who has been with CSG for five years, has qualified as an EEMUA 159 Storage Tank Assessor.

CSG's confined space team is highly experienced in the cleaning, inspection, tankering, waste treatment and management of storage tanks.

The business has utilised the services of independent assessor Steve Scott to review the inspection results and produce the final report for several years. But, with Steve set to retire, Sam decided to embark

on the EEMUA training himself - and passed the exams with flying colours.

Sam said: "We have an eight-strong confined space team and have been growing the storage tank inspection side of the business.

"Until now, we have had to subcontract the formal inspection and report aspect - but I have completed the qualification myself, allowing us to bring the full service under one roof.

"I have received fantastic mentoring from Steve over the years and have examined countless tanks, so that was an excellent grounding for me.

"This is an exciting step forward for CSG, and we are looking to expand the service

and grow the team moving forward."

CSG's team assesses the overall health of the storage tank, ensuring the products inside haven't caused any issues and that there are no corrosion or structural defects.

Tests are carried out to ensure the tanks meet UK and international safety and environmental standards, and to advise on risk-based maintenance and expected lifespan.

Last year, CSG invested £100,000 in a drone that makes the inspection process far easier and safer.

Sam said: "The drone is ground-breaking and has already made a tremendous difference.

"Whereas previously it could take a week to erect scaffolding around a tank to obtain access, the drone can now fly in almost immediately.

"We have worked on tanks up to 90 metres in diameter containing tens of thousands of tonnes of crude oil. Without a drone, inspections can require tens of thousands of pounds in setup costs before work even begins. Using a drone removes much of this upfront expense, making the inspection significantly cheaper for the customer.

"Utilising a drone is also far safer than sending a human into the tank.

"The use of LIDAR sensors and HD cameras allows us to map the tank's metal thickness in a 3D image. The results are extraordinarily accurate and ensure the interior and exterior of the tank are in appropriate condition."

In addition to conducting private inspections, Sam and his team are visiting all CSG sites nationwide with storage tanks to ensure compliance and safety. Storage tanks typically require inspection every three to five years.

For more information or to obtain a quote for storage tank maintenance, visit www.csg.co.uk



Hire manager gains the right tools for leadership

A hire manager at the leading UK builders' merchant has proved it is never too late to learn after completing an apprenticeship in leadership skills.

Martin Carley-White, 50, is a Tool Hire Manager at Travis Perkins, and he has recently finished his Level 3 Team Leader apprenticeship, giving him all the tools for the job.

Travis Perkins Hire is committed to supporting the development of apprentices and investing in the next generation of skilled professionals. Over the last 12 months, 22 colleagues have either completed apprenticeships or have started them.

Martin has always had a keen focus on personal development, upskilling 15 years ago to earn his HGV licence, which enabled him to begin working for Travis Perkins as an HGV driver.

After 10 years behind the wheel, Martin became a tool hire fitter, with the ambition to progress to a team leader. He embarked on a Level 3 apprenticeship to develop the skills needed to achieve this.

Speaking last month during National Apprenticeship Week, Martin said: "After spending almost 10 years driving HGVs, I was keen to get into a different part of the

business, and moving to TP Hire felt like a good fit.

"I have always been the kind of person who likes to keep pushing forward and keep improving myself. I wanted to become a manager, so just over a year ago, I began a Level 3 apprenticeship to develop the skills needed.

"Within that, I learnt a great deal about time management and different techniques to try and get the best out of the other people in the team, as well as myself.

"In my previous career before I started at Travis Perkins, I used to manage people, and this course would have been so valuable for that career too."

Six months into Martin's apprenticeship, he was promoted to a managerial role where he oversees the daily operations of the tool hire department at his branch in Hertfordshire.

"I am so grateful to Travis Perkins for giving me the opportunity to develop my skills and continue to push my career forward," Martin continued. "They were very encouraging throughout the process, allowing me time to complete my studies.

"I would encourage anyone to broaden their horizons and do what I did. You should never stop learning."

Travis Perkins launches large scale recycled bagged aggregate trial

The UK's largest builders' merchant is making progress in sustainable building materials by testing a new aggregate product made with some recycled materials.

Travis Perkins will offer a more environmentally friendly aggregate solution that includes up to 30% recycled construction and demolition waste to produce MOT Type 1. They will sell 25,000 bags of this new aggregate in selected branches in the South East and South West.

The demand for construction aggregates has been higher than available supplies for years, putting pressure on future resources.

John Duffy, Senior Category Manager - Aggregates at Travis Perkins, said:

"Aggregate reserves are dwindling and construction and new housing sectors are already using recycled aggregates to cope with that. Ultimately, a transition towards a recycled solution in the merchant sector has become not just desirable but inevitable.

"That is why we have launched this innovative trial where selected branches will sell a mixed sub-base aggregate made from both quarried and high-quality recycled materials to make MOT Type 1."

To support this, they have launched a trial sale of a mixed sub-base aggregate made from quarried materials and high-quality recycled content, branded as Ecoblend.

This product combines traditional Type 1 quarried material with up to 30% processed recycled content, sourced from local construction and demolition waste, such as asphalt and crushed concrete. It meets BS EN Standards and Highway Specifications.

Using recycled aggregates offers additional benefits, including reducing landfill waste, lowering mining needs, and conserving natural resources.

The new Ecoblend will be sold in black bags instead of the usual green used by Travis Perkins. This change is due to the black bags being made from 50% certified recycled polymer, which further supports sustainability.



Enva to open 124,000 sq ft fridge recycling facility

A recycling and resource recovery company is expanding its operations, planning to develop a new facility to increase capacity and sustainability.

Enva has signed a pre-let agreement for a high-specification warehouse spanning 124,000 sq ft at Goodman's Crossways Commercial Park in Dartford, Kent.

Company executives state that the new fridge recycling facility will greatly enhance their ability to process waste electrical and electronic equipment across London and the South East, while also supporting customers nationwide.

Set to be completed by late 2026, this site will become the largest of its kind in the UK, capable of processing up to 35,000 tonnes of e-waste each year.

Designed to achieve a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating, the facility will feature rooftop solar photovoltaics and advanced recycling technologies, allowing over 98% of fridge components to be recovered or reused.

Barry Phillips, managing director at Enva, said: "This new facility demonstrates a continued commitment to delivering our long-term growth strategy."

"By investing in the latest technology to safely and sustainably process end-of-life fridges, this facility will help us create significant environmental and commercial value for our customers and support a more resource-efficient and circular economy."

The development marks the launch of Phase 2 at Crossways Commercial Park, which will ultimately deliver 320,000 sq ft of sustainable industrial and logistics space.



Artist's impression of Enva's new warehouse at Goodman's Crossways Commercial Park

George Glennie, development director at Goodman, added: "Whether customers are looking to expand their operations or drive efficiencies in their supply chains, Crossways Commercial Park provides high-quality, flexible space that can meet their needs over the long term."

"Set within a well-established logistics park, it also offers an attractive working environment with extensive landscaping and views across the River Thames and surrounding lakes."

"This new facility will enable Enva to significantly increase its operational capacity and, with sustainability at the heart of its business, invest in innovative, high-tech solutions to maximise resource recovery."

GMCA tables plans for MRF in Bolton

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) plans to relocate the city's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) from Sharston in South Manchester to Over Hulton in Bolton.



The site has not been used since 2019. Credit: Google Earth

The new site, a nine-acre former in-vessel composting building located off Salford Road, will be converted and expanded to house a 105,000 sq ft MRF. This facility will operate 24/7, processing household waste and sorting it into various categories for reuse in different industries.

The move to the Bolton facility will allow the GMCA to enhance its MRF operations, with the capacity to process up to 140,000 tonnes of waste per year. In comparison, the existing Sharston facility, which has been operational since 2013 and is run by SUEZ, manages between 90,000 and 100,000 tonnes of materials annually.

Additionally, the new facility in Over Hulton will be able to handle items that the current site cannot process, such as pots, tubs, and Tetra Pak cartons, according to the planning documents.

The development will also involve repurposing the unused IVC facility, which was previously used for biowaste treatment until 2019, along with the construction of an education centre and a two-story wellness building.

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John trained at Saltcoats Burgh in the late 60s. After a decade he moved to PD Beatwaste Ltd/ Wimpey Waste Management Ltd. He then joined the Civil Engineering Dept at Strathclyde University before posts at Renfrew, Hamilton, Inverness and East Ayrshire Councils.

A Fellow of CIWM, he served on their Scottish Centre Council from 1988-2009.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland and was their President between 1991-92.

JOHN CRAWFORD

Humble pie!

It was the custom in our Department for new Graduates to be summoned for an interview with the Director and to be congratulated on their enhanced academic qualifications. Afterwards, he asked me 'what now?' I said I was hoping for a promotion like that of two colleagues who'd graduated the previous year. 'No chance: you don't have the Meat Inspection Certificate, and I need suitably qualified EHOs to back up the Meat Inspectors at the Abattoir'.

I pointed out that I'd been in further education for the last nine years (block release, night school, day release classes, and home study, as well as two years full-time at University), and that, in addition to my Degree, I had an HNC in Building and had been awarded the CIWM Testamur.

I felt that it would be an utter waste for me to stand all day in a slaughterhouse line incising animal carcasses looking for disease, but he was adamant. He stood up and ended the meeting saying 'son,

you're going nowhere in this job without a Meat Ticket'. I didn't take it lightly.

I'd forgotten all this until last summer when I read an excellent article in the *REHIS Journal* about the beneficial health effects for people who live beside our restored canals. I thought I recognised the Author's name and asked the Editor to pass him my feedback. He then contacted me and confirmed he was the person I'd known previously, gently reminding me that in 1999, I'd described him as a 'Johnny come lately' when he'd been tasked with briefing CIWM in Scotland on SEPA's proposals for developing a National Waste Strategy.

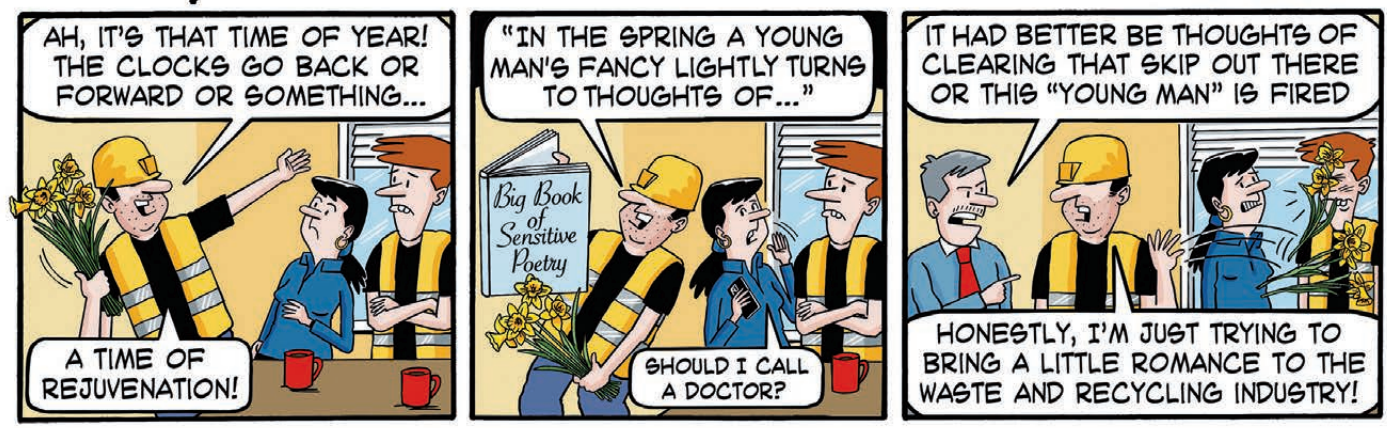
I couldn't recall being so rude but I'd clearly been out of order, (my only excuse is that I felt at the time that as SEPA had a Statutory Duty to License new waste treatment and disposal facilities, I felt there was potential for a conflict of interest once we started to implement the Strategy) so I apologised unreservedly and he graciously accepted.

I suppose my comment was consistent with the baggage of being labelled 'not a team player' and 'difficult to manage' (that frankly never bothered me a bit) for the last decade of my (full-time) working life!

Within a year of being refused a promotion, I'd been appointed Manager of Beatwaste's Glasgow and Dundee Depots and was thoroughly enjoying the experience.

It was nearly 25 years later when my former Boss (now long retired) phoned me to ask if he could 'put in a word' for a school-leaver (the granddaughter of a family friend) who'd applied for one of our Trainee vacancies? I told him we didn't work like that: if she was the best candidate, she'd get the job, end of story (she was, by the way). He then said (rather grudgingly, I felt) 'you've done rather well with your career since you left us' and I couldn't resist replying 'I suppose so, but how much further could I have gone if only I'd had a Meat Ticket?'

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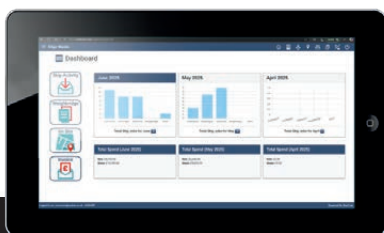
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