



The Chartered Institution
of Wastes Management



environmental
services
association



Dan Rogerson Esq MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
DEFRA
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
LONDON
SW1P 3JR

21 November 2013

Dear Minister,

Boosting England's performance on waste & resource management

Over the past year, our organisations have been working together to articulate a unified voice for the waste and resource management sector. We are writing to you now in response to your letter of 6 November, which made clear that Defra will be reducing its activity in some areas of waste and resource management from 2014/15.

As you know, waste is a valuable source of materials, energy and nutrients. The industry has grown strongly over recent years despite the adverse economic climate and has the potential to drive green growth and create jobs in the future. As organisations representing responsible operators and professionals in the sector we are concerned that progress in improving resource management in England had already stalled in a number of areas even before your recent announcement. However, rather than simply criticise the Government, and recognising the resource constraints in your Department, we would like to offer to work closely with you and your officials at Defra to help turn this situation around.

In our view there a number of key areas which need to be addressed:

- **Waste crime.** Earlier this year we wrote to your predecessor Lord de Mauley to express our strong view that public funding to tackle waste crime should not be reduced. We hope that cracking down on waste crime will remain a priority for Defra, and that despite your letter of 6 November and the recently announced cuts in Environment Agency staff sufficient resources will be allocated to tackling this issue. We recently met with your officials to discuss further ways of tackling waste crime and we have committed to providing feedback and ideas on how we can work together. This is a priority issue for all our organisations and we will be responding shortly.

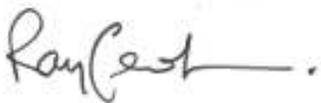
- **Recycling.** The rate of increase in household waste recycling and composting in England has levelled off and it is not certain that the EU target of 50% by 2020 will be reached. We would like to work with you to see what can and should be done to address this.
- **Collection methods.** Following Lord de Mauley's recent letter, local authorities are asking for formal guidance from Defra on how to interpret and apply the separate collection requirements of the Waste Framework Directive in light of the Judicial Review outcome. We stand ready to help your officials develop this.
- **Hazardous waste.** Defra's 2010 Strategy on hazardous waste has not yet been implemented. ESA and others would like to work more closely with Defra and the Environment Agency to raise standards of hazardous waste management on the ground.
- **Commercial and industrial waste.** Recent work sponsored by CIWM shows that there is an infrastructure gap for C&I waste. We would like to discuss with you and your officials how to create the conditions in which this gap could be bridged by fostering private sector investment.
- **Waste prevention.** As you know Defra is due to publish the England Waste Prevention Programme in December 2013. We would like to work with you and your officials to ensure the plan makes a real difference.

The work done over the past 18 months on the MRF CoP shows what can be achieved by close and consultative working between your officials and the interested parties. We would like to see this approach applied to the other key areas identified above so that the scarce resources available to your Department can make the most impact.

Yours sincerely



Barry Dennis
Director General, ESA



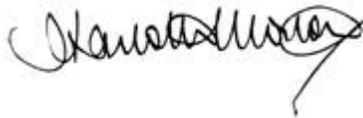
Ray Georgeson
Chief Executive, Resource Association

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Steve Lee
Chief Executive, CIWM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. M. Skorupska', written in a cursive style.

Dr Nina Skorupska
Chief Executive, REA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charlotte Morton', written in a cursive style.

Charlotte Morton
Chief Executive, ADBA