



5th November 2019

Circular No WP 11/18

National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2019

Dear Chief Executive Officer,

Following the recent meeting of the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee (16 October 2018), the following national waste enforcement priorities for 2019 have been agreed:

Illegal Activity and Unaccounted for Waste

- Tackling significant illegal waste activity i.e. operators or sites engaging in a significant level of illegal activity, the enforcement of which requires a multi-Agency response. Potential operators of concern will be identified and prioritised for a concerted enforcement approach. Illegal dumping and unauthorised movements of waste will also be targeted under this priority.

Construction and Demolition Activity & Capacity Challenges

- Enforcement activity that can assist in addressing the current capacity challenge. This will include Brown Bin roll-out, enforcement of Construction and Demolition Waste activities, misclassification of waste and monitoring of waste movements

Dealing with sites containing illegally deposited waste

- Sites identified by local authorities which contain waste that has been deposited without authorisation should be identified by local authorities and appropriate enforcement actions initiated. The Department is prepared to provide assistance both in terms of legal costs and site solutions to local authorities who work with the WERLAs in identifying and addressing such sites in 2019. The Department is making no commitment to providing such assistance beyond 2019.

The strategic evolution of the priorities identified by the National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee should be noted. In transitioning to a more strategic perspective it is recognised by the Committee that all regulatory authorities represented thereon have a role to play in the pursuance of these priorities. This includes the Waste Management Planning Lead Authorities and their continued waste awareness campaigns, the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to both their supervisory and licencing functions and an Garda Síochána in terms of dealing with criminal elements operating within the waste sector. For their part the WERLAs will design an Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2019 to develop targeted approaches to each of the above National Priorities. This



will include coordinated actions across Local Authorities and direct actions by the WERLAS themselves.

Producer Responsibility Officers within the WERLA offices will continue to be available to assist local authorities in building on the successful introduction of the Waste Tyres Regulations, the ELVES compliance scheme and the packaging pilot enforcement project as well as WEEE, Batteries and Farm Plastics compliance. It is of utmost importance that this aspect of the local authority enforcement portfolio continues to be rigorously enforced and that the supports available to officers are fully utilised in this regard.

It should also be noted that local authorities will have enforcement obligations under the forthcoming Mercury Regulations and compliance with same by dental practitioners. Further detail with respect to this matter, including the provision of enforcement guidance material to inform a programme of inspections in 2019 will be communicated to local authorities by the Department in due course

The WERLAs will provide further guidance on the implementation of the national waste enforcement priorities for 2019, in the interim please ensure this Circular is conveyed to the relevant personnel within your organisation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. O'Donoghue', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kevin O'Donoghue
Principal Officer
Waste Policy and Resource Efficiency