



The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice of the UK's waste and resource management industry, today welcomed the launch of HMRC's consultation on Landfill Tax. ESA's Director General, Barry Dennis said:

"We are pleased that Government has listened to ESA's calls for a more objective regime for determining the tax liability of waste 'fines'.

Misclassification of waste 'fines' for landfill tax purposes distorts the market and has significant economic and environmental impacts. As shown in the recent ESAET Report 'Waste Crime: Tackling Britain's Dirty Secret', nearly £160 million per annum is being lost to the public purse, due to waste materials, deliberately or otherwise, being incorrectly described as 'low rated' in terms of landfill tax.

Historically, landfill site operators have had to largely rely on visual checks alone and we hope that the introduction of a Loss on Ignition (LOI) testing regime will take away the opportunity for tax to be avoided and will also help to ensure more waste is recycled and recovered."