

Notes of WEEE Advisory Body (WAB) Meeting

10 July 2008, Conference Centre 1 Victoria Street London

Present :

Chair: Peter Calliafas

Members : Julie-Ann Adams, Joy Boyce, Jonathan Gorman, Gary Griffiths, John Holbrow, Leigh Holloway, Terry Maguire, Phil Morton, Mark Shelton.

BERR: Debbie Huntington, Kath Barker, Linda Prosper

Departmental Stakeholders: Roy Hathaway, Defra; John Convery, Scottish Government; Bob Mead, Environment Agency; Fiona Donaldson, SEPA (via conference call); Brian Perrett, VCA.

Apologies : Phil Conran, John Morrell, Kirstie McIntyre, Glyn Hughes, Welsh Assembly Government, Janice Harvey, DOE NI; Eugene Kelly, EHS NI

Aims of the Meeting: To review work implementation plan of the subgroups

Discussion points:

Peter Calliafas agreed that all papers will be circulated no later than a week in advance of meetings.

1. Minutes from the work plan meeting on 3 April were approved and will be made available on the BERR WAB Meetings webpage.

2. Peter Calliafas set out proposals that have been received from the Sub Groups for WAB consideration:

- Improving the evidence system
- Updating the Code of Practice
- Duty of Care
- Incentivising the Reuse agenda
- Reuse standard, BSI process

3. **Feedback from Sub-group 1 (UK System)** - Julie-Ann Adams reported that Paul Borrett, NAWDO has been invited to join the sub-group and in time a representative from the DTS will be approached.

- Over and under collection was discussed as the issues remain prevalent
- Improving the Evidence System – an alternative system and part one/part 2 evidence process was presented by JAA and discussed. Any changes will have to be considered against a possible review of the Regulations. The WAB agreed that JAA should work up a full business case for further consideration in Oct.
- Code of Practice – PM proposed that the DCF Code of Practice be updated to reflect current issues and circumstances. BERR is undertaking a project to look at leakages of WEEE from DCF's and the outputs will be fed through to the Subgroup for consideration.

- Scope – Still remained an issue for producers

4. Bob Mead gave an update on the progress of Subgroup 3 (Data).

Following initial complaints about the format of data, BM explained that the XML format is a standard version used by Government Departments to record and transfer data. EA have arranged AATF/AE workshops in Birmingham, Reading and Leeds in order to facilitate greater understanding and awareness amongst stakeholders.

5. There was a discussion on the producer identification mark (PIM) set out in Regulation 16. PIM is a requirement of the Directive, it is not unique and can be in any format including symbols and its enforcement is a problem across the EU.

6. An update from John Holbrow on Subgroup 2 (Development Matters)

A response from the WAB had been submitted to the EC Stakeholder Consultation. It was agreed that future papers/proposals will be sent to all WAB members in advance for comment although it was acknowledged that this proposed submission was discussed at the April meeting. BERR confirmed that the next Technical Adaptation Committee meeting in November may give the Member State a date for their submission into the process. The Commission will be starting workshops next year to take forward discussions on the review.

7. As B2B have no collection targets to meet, it was questioned whether B2B data is essential. BERR commented that whilst this is the case, the UK information is still useful for Government as it provides clarity on the overall amount of WEEE being produced from all sources. PC advised that following the Stakeholder event, a number of producer compliance schemes have expressed an interest in joining subgroup 2. A further meeting of SG2 on B2B and IPR will be arranged by JH shortly to look at and to move forward on these areas.

8. The Duty of Care consultation issued last month by Defra did not include any reference to how end users dispose of WEEE. BERR reported that this will be considered as part of the review of the UK Regulations, and the work of Sub Group 2. This idea was fully supported by the WAB given the lack of an obligation on B2B users to segregate and dispose of WEEE correctly.

9. An update on Subgroup 4 (Reuse) from Gary Griffiths.

11. An agreement was reached that the definition of reuse will be adopted from the Waste Framework Directive. A proposal to develop a formally recognised reuse standard was agreed as this will provide confidence to end users on the quality and purpose of the items and be similar in principle to Compost Standard developed by WRAP and the EA. BERR will look into whether any funding support is available for this initiative and PM has agreed to look into the potential of commercial sponsorship. The exporting of illegal WEEE to countries outside the EU falls within the Waste Transfer Frontier legislation and is being considered as part of ongoing work by the EA.

10 PC presented an outline idea about an enhanced evidence system to incentivise reuse, similar in principle to the proposed 2xROC's for renewable energy technology development. There was little support at the present time for the idea as other options are already available. Barriers to reuse will be considered as part of the BERR DCF project and how wider access can be granted to DCF sites for reuse

organisations. It was reported that the awareness campaign later in the year will reiterate the reuse messages.

11. Feedback from the Stakeholder Event

BERR issued a press notice, detailing the event and the Minister's announcement on the review of the UK WEEE system and his challenge to producers to increase their collection targets to 10kg by 2009. Positive feedback had been received from attendees of the event. BERR will provide a summary of the evaluation forms.

12. Facilitators from the workshop to summarise the key headings and outcomes of their sessions. An overall summary will be posted on the WAB webpage by the end of July.

13. Review of the Regulations

Debra Huntington reported that BERR will be considering a number of workstreams, which will feed into the UK review. BERR will issue an invitation to tender for a study on local authority costs and a project reviewing data and evidence analysis. The research will be completed by October.

Key Action Points :

- A proposal from subgroup 1 to consider a revised evidence system was agreed. Business case to WAB in Oct.
- Updating Code of Practise for DCF to be kept under review and discussed at next meeting
- Work implementation plan to be updated by all sub groups (in line with SG4) by Oct meeting.
- EA to address problems AATF/AE had experienced with excel spreadsheet. This will include advice to producers on how they could de-select a PIM.
- Subgroup 2 would welcome any responses to the EC Review from external bodies.
- All subgroups are keen to encourage interest and active participation from producers, distributors and AATF to join the work of the subgroups. Jonathan Gorman agreed to raise this with the BRC.
- Facilitators to summarise key outputs from the stakeholder event. WAB Secretariat to circulate to attendees, together with evaluation form – initial findings to go on the website by end July.

WAB Secretariat

July 2008