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From Tamara Finkelstein CB

Permanent Secretary

To Dame Meg Hillier MP

Chair of the Committee of Public Account

Waste Crime PAC: Follow-Up Response

Dear Meg,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to come the Public Accounts Committee hearing on 15 June to discuss our work with EA and HMRC on tackling waste crime.

During the hearing there were a number of points we promised to follow up with further detail.

Digital Waste Tracking

During the hearing you asked about mandatory digital waste tracking and our progress towards developing our IT systems, our anticipated spend on these systems and what we are doing to ensure our systems are successful in their implementation.

The digital delivery team currently designing the waste tracking service is provided by Defra's Digital Data and Technology Services (DDTS) function. We are procuring an IT partner to work with the delivery team to build the service. A procurement was issued on 14 June 2022 and responses are currently being assessed.

This financial year Waste Tracking has a confirmed capital budget of £4m. We have an indicative capital budget of £3.1m over the remainder of the spending review period.

As a digital service, waste tracking will be subject to a range of formal assurance processes in line with the Government's agreed approach to managing IT projects. The project will also be subject to user testing at all stages of the project's development to ensure waste tracking meets the needs of its users.

Fly-tipping Grant Scheme

At the hearing we talked about the grants we have awarded to 11 different local authorities to trial approaches and interventions to prevent or address the issue of fly-tipping. You asked for more information about the geographic distribution of these grants.

The scheme received 17 applications, 9 of which were from local authorities in the South East, with 11 awards being made. Projects were then assessed by an application panel, comprised of two WRAP members and a Defra member.

As this was a pilot round, we only invited LAs to apply that that were currently leading on the issue of fly tipping or were already known from information obtained by Defra and WRAP to have a significant fly tipping issue.

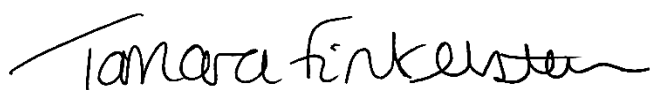
The scheme is being delivered by WRAP and provides capital funding for projects at known fly-tipping hot-spots that show the potential for improving infrastructure, raising awareness, and supporting enforcement activity.

The pilots are trialling approaches that can influence long term behaviour change and provide key learnings on methods used for reduction of fly-tipping that can be shared with the wider sector and can be easily replicated or scaled up.

A full list of local authorities who received the award, and the amount they received, can be found on WRAP's website [here](#).

I hope you find this additional information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



TAMARA FINKELSTEIN

Permanent Secretary