

Serious and Organised Waste Crime Review – Terms of Reference

The Serious and Organised Waste Crime review is initiated by, and will report to, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

1. Purpose

To consider, in depth, serious and organised waste crime—including our response to it—so that we can make actionable recommendations for a strategic approach to waste crime.

This review will directly inform a strategic approach to waste crime, which will be published in the new resources and waste strategy. This strategy is part of the Government’s environmental policy following the 25-year plan and the Clean Growth strategy. The review will also help shape future direction of work in this area.

2. Objectives

The review will:

- consider the extent and nature of crimes being committed, and the types of organised crime groups involved
- consider the environmental, community and economic impacts of serious and organised waste crime
- consider how the Environment Agency is responding to the threat
- consider the ability of the Environment Agency, other organisations, and the law enforcement system as a whole, to work together to tackle the threat
- make recommendations for a strategic approach to serious and organised waste crime
- make recommendations for the future direction of work

In implementing the review, the review team should also take account of:

- the enforcement landscape and the multiple organisations involved
- the sustainability, scalability, deliverability and cost-benefit trade-offs of responses to serious and organised waste crime
- wider work underway in Defra, the Home Office and the Environment Agency
- lessons learnt and examples of best practice from a wide range of stakeholders

3. Scope

The review will take a broad approach, to understand the scale, nature and impact of serious and organised crime and current and potential response to it. The focus will be on England only.

The review will concentrate on organised criminal involvement in waste crime, characteristics of criminal enterprises, intelligence gathering and enforcement effectiveness. It will consider fly-tipping and smaller waste crime incidents only in connection to the review's understanding of organised criminality.

4. Roles and responsibilities

The review will be chaired by Defra Non-Executive Director Lizzie Noel. The review will report to the Defra Secretary of State and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State.

5. Ways of working

The Chair will be responsible for overseeing the strategic direction and progress of the review and delivery of the final report. The Chair will work closely with the Head of Waste and Recycling, who will oversee the review within Defra. Progress reviews will be conducted monthly.

The Chair, with advice taken from the core working group, may seek to access wider expertise dependent on need.

The review will be supported by a Secretariat within Defra, and by staff within Defra and the Environment Agency throughout.

A communications strategy and stakeholder engagement plan will be developed. All communication with the media will be undertaken through Defra Communications Team or the Environment Agency Communications team.

6. Timing

The review will commence in June 2018 and is due to be completed by September 2018.

7. Reporting

An evidence-based report will be submitted to Defra Ministers for consideration, detailing the findings of the review.