

## WasteDataFlow Operational Group Meeting minutes (afternoon)

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Ergon House, London

**Attendees:** Isabella Hayes, David Lee, Gary Armstrong, Roy Thompson, Pete Marris, Sarah Roberts, Susana Sebastian, Alan McCoy, Rosaleen Hughes, Alex Ross, Frances Howe, Michael Lavery, Claire Coggan and Adrian Fitzpatrick.

**Apologies:** Vicki Heron, Claire O'Neill, Andy MacKenzie, Tina Benfield and Adrian Gregory.

### Key Messages:

#### 1. Development

- The XML upload is all working with the new questions now.
- There is still ongoing work with Wales' finance questions.
- Small items such as bugs are being solved.
- New reports are to be created on WDF once everyone's ideas have been combined. Most of the OG have submitted ideas for new reports and many of the ideas overlap with one another.

#### 2. New waste treatment processes and MBT:

- **Complex waste treatment processes** – Lancashire and Greater Manchester have recently got contracts with complex waste treatment facilities to which they send residual waste, it is passed through many treatment processes (the output of one process being the input for others) resulting in a variety of outputs from compost to heat (which is used to power the plant) to water. The current questions on WDF cannot cope with processes such as these. If a new question is introduced on WDF for this sort of process it must be ready for the beginning of 2010/11.
- **Question 59** – there have been discussions recently over whether the tonnes to biological treatment output in Q59 counts as recycling and can feed into NI192. It had been suggested that if the output was used for landfill capping then it should be regarded as landfill, but that if it was used for landfill restoration then it could count as recycling. However, this definition was rejected and Defra and the EA are currently looking into assessing the quality of the outputs and differentiating between the outputs that way.

#### 3. National Statistics release in November (England) – England's 2008/09 municipal waste statistics will be released on 5<sup>th</sup> November at

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/environment/wastats/bulletin09.htm>

#### 4. Updates from each country:

- England:
  - Quarter 4 08/09 - all complete.
  - Quarter 1 09/10 (as of 30<sup>th</sup> Sept) - 356 started (of 359), 287 submitted, 104 at level 35 already.
  - Quarter 2 09/10 - 77 started.
  - Level 35 Roll-downs – For Quarter 1 there have been lots of requests, but none authorised as yet.
  - UGs: N/A.
- Wales:

The annual report has been published. Wales' recycling rate for 2008/09 is 41% which is 5% above the previous year.
- Scotland:

- Situation with latest quarter of data to be submitted by authorities: Information for Q1 (April-June 09) submitted by all the Councils in August.
  - Situation with latest quarter being validated: The data for 12 Councils have been verified.
  - Brief details of any L35 rolldowns: N/A.
  - Brief details of UGs since last OG: N/A.
  - AOB: We had problems with the summary on-line data provided by WDF this quarter (April – June 09) which has lead to delays in the verification and reporting of the data by Councils.
  - The 2008/09 data has been published and Scotland's recycling rate is 34%.
- NI:
    - Situation with latest quarter of data to be submitted by authorities; 23/26 (88.46%) of district councils had submitted to level 30 by the August 31st deadline. 20/26 (77%) district councils had their data at level 35 by the August 31st deadline. 4 district councils had data approved to level 35 on September 1st, with the remainder being approved on 3rd and 7th September.
    - Situation with latest quarter being validated; On Monday 28th September 20/ 26 district councils had data validated for April to June quarter.
    - Brief details of any L35 rolldowns; Data was rejected for all councils to enable amendments to data.
    - Brief details of UGs since last OG; None.
    - AOB: April to June 2009 was the first quarter where NIEA ran with an automated validation process developed by colleagues in CSRB (Central Statistics Research Branch). This, despite a few initial problems, proved to be useful in identifying trends on individual waste streams at a level of detail not previously possible. The process allowed a comparison between current and previous quarter with same period of last year based on our previous developed validation methods. For data arising post April 2009 CSRB will take over the management of the data with a view to obtaining National Statistics accreditation, NIEA will still retain the ownership and validation of the data including auditing.

### **Actions arising:**

1. Gary to send Alex a data dump of Welsh data.
2. Isabella to combine everyone's new report ideas and circulate at the next OG.
3. NI to send OG a link to their MBT guidance.  
([www.ni-environment.gov.uk/composting\\_guidance-2.pdf](http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/composting_guidance-2.pdf))
4. Defra and the EA to meet and decide how authorities should be entering MBT data in WDF.