

## **WasteDataFlow Operational Group Meeting minutes (afternoon)**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010 – Nobel House, London

**Attendees:** Isabella Hayes, David Lee, Gary Armstrong, Alex Ross, Kate Foley, Adrian Fitzpatrick (dialling in), Adrian Gregory (dialling in), Tania Stephens, Susana Sebastian (dialling in), Alan McCoy, Sarah Roberts, Pete Marris, Michael Laverty (dialling in), Lucy Toman, Gillian Neville and Steve Sanderson.

**Note:** Unfortunately, due to the spider phone not working in Nobel House, Adrian Gregory, Adrian Fitzpatrick, Michael Laverty and Susana Sebastian could not join the meeting.

**Apologies:** Roy Thompson, Mark McAdoo, Rosaleen Hughes, Tina Benfield and John Fry.

### **Key Messages:**

#### **1. Reducing the burdens on LAs**

- With NIs coming to an end we need to look at reducing the amount of data we request from local authorities by looking through the questions on WDF and discontinuing the ones which are no longer needed.
- There are many questions on WDF which we no longer need to ask, such as how many wheelie bins, and what size, are used in each local authority and how many compost bins have been supplied.
- CLG are currently compiling a list of which data requirements are to be dropped.
- England are to focus on household waste from 2010/11 as data collected on WDF is no longer considered all municipal waste anyway.
- Wales have already looked at reducing the questions asked on WDF and written a report up.
- It was discussed that consulting the WDF user group would be a good way of finding out which questions the LAs think should be discontinued.

#### **2. Recording of shred and spread tonnages on WDF**

- Several English authorities have officially objected in writing to the clarification sent out by Defra (via the WDF helpdesk) that shred and spread tonnages should not be included in NI 192 tonnages.
- Wales have had no complaints about the statement sent out.

#### **3. The future of National Indicators**

- CLG is to discontinue National Indicators and not replace them, to feed into the reduction of burdens on LAs, however there will be a smaller list of data requirements which has not yet been announced.
- Eric Pickles is expected to make an announcement on NIs in October prior to the spending review on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **4. Roll up to L40**

- Wales and England roll up their data to L40 (which makes it available to the public) as soon as they publish that quarter's data, but Scotland and Northern Ireland roll the whole year's worth of data up at the same time, at the end of the year once all four quarters of data are published.
- This means that the public can only access England and Wales data for a lot of the year, and not get a UK picture, until Scotland and NI have rolled their data up to L40.
- As there were no representatives at the meeting for Scotland and NI this item was not discussed in detail. It was agreed that Isabella would email all four countries to find out if we could agree on a consistent way of making all UK data available to the public at the same stage in our validation.

## 5. Development

- **Q23** – There is a proposal to change the wording of the question from “disposal” to “disposal or treatment” to make it clear that not all waste collected and recorded in Q23 is necessarily going to landfill, some will be sent to reprocessors and the output will be recycling.
- **Q23** – It was proposed that the wording in each category in Q23 specifies whether the waste is household or non household. This is to prevent confusion as currently some categories don't specify whether they are HH or nonHH and authorities then mis-record their data and this leads to L35/L40 rolldowns.
- **Selection list** – this was introduced to limit the facilities that authorities can see as they fill out each question so that only the facilities relevant to that question are shown, i.e. only landfills show in Q51. This prevents the incorrect facility being picked.
- **Q100** – This is the complex waste question to eventually replace the disposal questions Q51 to 65. Gary showed us all how to use the question and how flexible it is so as not to limit what processes the authorities can enter into it, as the current questions are very restrictive. Q100 still needs a comments box added at the bottom of the page and a “copy structure over to next quarter” function to save even more time for authorities. This question will replace about 20 questions on WDF and will feed into reducing the burdens on authorities.
- **Q100 work still to be done** – there is still technical work to be completed to allow authorities to upload Q100 via xml and also to allow users of WDF to download Q100 as a csv file.

## 6. WDF training programme

- The online courses are still being run (new users, NIs, LATS, reports). Tim Knowles, who has worked as a WDF user at a local authority, is now running the training courses in place of Anne Robinson.

## 7. Country updates

England:

- Q1 2010/11 validation has started and so far 106 authorities have reached L35.
- The WDF helpdesk are sending out more guidance to authorities than previously, in the hope that this will prevent the need for authorities to correct their data later on.
- The annual release is currently called the Municipal Waste Management Statistics, but from Q1 of 2010/11 will be called Local Authority Collected Waste Statistics and will focus on household waste.

Wales:

- The LAS report was published on 5<sup>th</sup> September and Q1 of 2010/11 has been published which showed a 44% recycling rate.
- LAS advisors are visiting the 20 reprocessors that are used most by local authorities.

Scotland:

- 100% of the Scottish local authorities supplied data on time for Q1 2010-11. Provisional data to be publish mid-November
- Provisional annual data for 2009/10 was published on 5<sup>th</sup> October. However, the data for 2 local authorities are still to be finalised.
- SEPA is producing recycling/composting guidance in line with the requirements of the Scotland's Zero Waste Plan and the Waste Framework Directive.

NI:

- 100% of the NI local authorities supplied data on time for Q1 2010-11 although it generated more than the usual amount of checking / queries etc.
- The quarterly report is due to be issued on 14/10/2010 to Official Statistical protocols.
- The annual municipal waste report (2009-10) is due to be issued on 2/12/2010 to Official Statistical protocols.
- Stage 2 of the revised WFD is currently out to consultation in NI.
- Stephen Gracey (whom some may know) has transferred from the WDF team to another position in NIEA.

#### **Actions arising:**

1. Alex to send the report he has written on reducing the number of questions on WDF to Gillian.
2. Isabella to include "review of WDF questions to reduce LA burden" on the next UG agenda in January.
3. Lucy to email Isabella information about the NI announcement made by Eric Pickles and Isabella to forward this on to the rest of the OG.
4. Isabella to email round the four UK countries regarding the timing of rolling data up to L40.
5. Isabella to email around the countries to find out which countries consider which categories of Q23 as HH and nonHH waste as they differ slightly.
6. Isabella to organise a telecon with NI and Scotland to update them on the items discussed in today's meeting.
7. Isabella to send out mid-year invoices to Wales, Scotland and NI in November.

#### **Additional discussions on 18<sup>th</sup> October during teleconference:**

1. Data burden on LAs – LATS still exists, even if NIs are coming to an end, so we still need to report data for that and for the EU target of 50% household recycling by 2020.
2. Data burden will be on the England UG agenda around Christmas.
3. Scotland is considering asking authorities to report recycling and reuse together to save them work entering data. However, it was discussed and suggested that it may be useful to keep reuse separate as it is further up the waste hierarchy than recycling and is becoming more important.
4. The EA LATS annual report will be published on 5<sup>th</sup> November.
5. The EA visits are continuing.
6. **Action** – Isabella to send out mid-year invoices to Wales, Scotland and NI in November.