

WasteDataFlow Operational Group Meeting minutes (afternoon)

Thursday 15th April 2010 – Ergon House, London

Attendees: Isabella Hayes, David Lee, Gary Armstrong, Roy Thompson, Alex Ross, Kate Foley, Adrian Fitzpatrick (dialling in), Adrian Gregory (dialling in), Tania Stephens, Rosaleen Hughes, Tina Benfield, Susana Sebastian (dialling in), Alan McCoy, Sarah Roberts, Pete Marris, John Fry, Michael Laverty.

Apologies: Andy MacKenzie, Mark McAdoo.

Key Messages:

1. Development:

- For Q1 of 2010/11 the Welsh destination questions need to be up and running as well as the complex waste disposal question, which should be ready to test in the third week of May. Both sets of disposal questions will be run in parallel during 2010/11 while people get used to using the new question. After that the old disposal questions will be withdrawn.
- Facility list - ones that are closed will be highlighted in red to bring to the attention of authorities that they are no longer available to use.
- Wales have suggested that there be a free text box when choosing 'other exempt' to enter the name of the facility. This would be easier for the user, but it would lead to many inaccurate names being entered. It was agreed that it was a good idea, but we would have to make sure that authorities entered the names correctly.
- The group discussed changing, on facility-based questions, the text on the 'select' button to 'view all facilities' as it is not clear for what the button is intended.
- New reports – under 'analytical' on the summary reports page, there will be 5 new reports. It was agreed not to make the destination report available to the public as it is, but that the waste movement, material sent, material collected and reprocessor reports can be made public.

2. Definition of municipal waste:

- Data collected in WDF now doesn't account for all municipal waste, but is only local authority collected waste. To report to the EU, WDF and EA landfill site returns will be used from now on.

3. Making Public Data Public:

- The last 4 years of England data are now available on www.data.gov.uk. This will allow the public to build their own database and tables from the csv.

4. Compost:

- It was discussed what compost quality counts towards NIs and recycling? David is to consult Defra colleagues about this.

5. National Statistics

- Northern Ireland is concerned about the pre-release of National Statistics. Quarterly statistics are now labelled as Official Statistics and are soon to be National Statistics. NI have previously spoken to David about having a consistent opinion across the UK on pre-release. David is to speak to Defra colleagues about allowing users of WDF to view other authorities' data before a NS release.

6. Country updates:

England:

- Q3 – 6 authorities missed L30 deadline. 169 authorities are at L35 so far.
- Street sweepings – some authorities are entering data in Q18 and Q19 instead of Q23.

Wales:

- All authorities have reached L35 for Q3.
- The next UG is on 27th May.
- Currently updating LAS annual report.
- WAG will be reporting more quarterly data in the future.
- There was a 37% recycling rate in Q3. The calendar year of 2009 had a 40% recycling rate.

Scotland:

- Currently validating Q3. The Q4 L30 deadline is 12th May. There was a UG in March.

NI:

- 100% of authorities reached Q3 L30 and L35 by the deadline. There was a UG on 24th February where there was good user representation. There will be a waste management report published today.

7. AOB:

- Adrian G - NI statistical colleagues had problems downloading csv reports (when they downloaded them there was no data in the spreadsheet). Gary is to look into it.
- Roy – the EA has released MBT guidance.

Actions arising:

1. Gary to release the waste movement report to the public.
2. Gary to adjust Q18 in the material collected report so that parks and grounds waste from Q18 is picked up under 'other compostable' waste not 'other materials'.
3. David to speak to John McIntyre regarding compost quality and what should count towards recycling in WDF.
4. David to consult Graham Collett in Defra about National Statistics and whether any unpublished data on WDF should not be available for other authorities to view.
5. David to send the link to 'Stats Matters' round the OG.
6. Alex to send his suggestions for changes to WDF questions round the OG.
7. Gary to investigate a complaint that was made to WDF about downloading CSV files which had no data in them.