

Email to Steve Doughty from [REDACTED] Environment Agency:

Steve, good to talk. Some key points below. RDF stats to follow this email.

General

- There is a legitimate export market for quality recyclable material
- Around 12 million tonnes of recyclables including plastic, glass, paper and cardboard are being exported from the UK annually for reuse and recycling
- These recyclables are called 'Green List' Waste and can be exported without having to 'notify' the Environment Agency
- If a waste is 'notifiable' it means an exporter must tell the Environment Agency what they want to send, where they want to send it from and to
- The law is clear that it is illegal to export waste from the UK for dumping
- Illegal waste exports undermine law-abiding recycling businesses at home and risk harming people and the environment in the country the waste is sent to
- If anyone has information about illegal waste exports, please share it with us by calling the Environment Agency (0800 80 70 60) or anonymously via Crimestoppers (0800 555 111).

What's the EA doing?

*We have a specialist crime unit to track and prosecute organised criminals who dump waste abroad or export poorly-sorted/contaminated 'recyclables'

*The National Environmental Crime Team was set up in 2007/8. The team is staffed with a combination of ex-police Detectives and Enforcement Specialists within the EA with investigative skills.

*NECT investigators work side-by-side with police, Interpol and HMRC

*Since 2008, the EA has taken over 35 successful waste export prosecutions

*We currently have 7 live major investigations ongoing into the illegal export of waste

*We've carried out over 200 targeted container checks in the past 12 months

Examples of recent prosecutions:

Earlier this month, 5 defendants were fined at the Old Bailey for shipping contaminated waste to Brazil -

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/news/146256.aspx?month=3&year=2013&coverage=National§or=Waste>

In December, 8 people and 3 companies were ordered to pay over £220,000 for attempting to export broken electronics to Nigeria, Ghana and Pakistan. This is our biggest e-waste prosecution to date:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/news/144661.aspx?page=6&month=12&year=2012>
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I've asked Nisar to speak to you about Defra's consultation on the TFS regulations – it is a different thing to what I was talking about.