

News story: Better co-ordination to stop illegal waste carriers

The Environment Agency and Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) have agreed on steps to stop illegal waste carriers and improve road safety in England.

Sir James Bevan, Environment Agency Chief Executive, and Gareth Llewellyn, DVSA Chief Executive, signed an agreement today (12 September 2017) in London.

How being a waste carrier works

Companies must [register as a waste carrier](#) if they:

- transport waste
- buy, sell or dispose of waste

However, some carriers operate illegally without the necessary licence, and don't dispose of waste legally.

Companies who use a waste carrier must [check they're registered to dispose of waste](#), and not allow the waste carrier to dispose of their waste illegally.

Every year waste crime costs taxpayers and businesses £1 billion. The Environment Agency spent almost £15 million stopping illegal waste activity between April 2015 and March 2016.

What the agreement will do

The Environment Agency and DVSA will share intelligence and carry out joint operations in England to:

- stop waste being illegally transported
- target unsafe drivers and vehicles

The agreement will see:

- DVSA staff working within Environment Agency teams, making sure enforcement action is coordinated and effective
- information and intelligence shared between the 2 agencies, increasing the effectiveness of roadside enforcement activity on waste industry vehicles
- enforcement teams provided with up-to date and relevant intelligence about waste industry operators

A DVSA traffic examiner inspects a waste carrier

This will all help to:

- identify high-risk or illegal goods vehicle operators who are involved in the transport of waste
- reduce the number of seriously and serially non-compliant waste industry vehicles on England's roads

Report unsafe operators

You can report any information you have about to unsafe vehicle operators to DVSA.

Building on years of joint work

Sir James Bevan and Gareth Llewellyn (right) talk to Environment Agency and DVSA staff at a joint operation in London

For a number of years, the Environment Agency and DVSA have worked together to stop waste crime, making sure companies are operating legally and vehicle safety is improved.

Gareth Llewellyn said:

DVSA priority is to protect you from unsafe drivers and vehicles.

I am delighted that we will be working with the Environment Agency to tackle those who illegally transport waste. By combining our enforcement powers and intelligence we'll be able to target those who break the rules more effectively.

DVSA traffic examiners will issue fines to those waste carriers we find to be operating in an unsafe manner. These operators are putting themselves and other road users at risk and pose a danger to our environment.

Sir James Bevan said:

We want to protect people and communities from the impact that vehicle and waste crime can have and create a level playing field for all operators.

This memorandum of understanding with DVSA will help both organisations target the waste industry to improve compliance and vehicle and driver safety standards.

To help us with this, we are encouraging people to check with the Environment Agency if the company they are employing to take their waste away is a fully registered waste carrier.

Press release: Your chance to take a look at preferred route for A303 Stonehenge scheme

Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling announced the preferred route for upgrading the A303 at Stonehenge this week.

As part of the biggest government investment in roads in a generation, the £1.6 billion scheme includes the construction of a tunnel past one of the world's most famous prehistoric monuments, a free-flowing, mile-a-minute dual carriageway and a much-needed bypass north of Winterbourne Stoke.

Highways England is hosting drop-in sessions where members of the public are invited to call in to see the proposals and to discuss the preferred route with the project team.

Consultation on the proposed upgrade between Amesbury and Berwick Down attracted considerable feedback earlier this year and Highways England has used this to inform its choice of preferred route, including moving the position of the western portal to avoid conflict with the solstice alignment.

Highways England project director Derek Parody said:

We are pleased to offer an opportunity for people to find out what happens next and to understand the benefits we are working to deliver.

We have listened to feedback from more than 9,000 people and organisations in our consultation earlier this year, and from this, and further surveys and studies, we can move forward with a solution to help improve traffic flow, reduce rat running on surrounding roads, bringing improvements to local communities and benefits to the South West economy, while at the same time enhancing and protecting one of the UK's most iconic landscapes.

We will continue to work with all our heritage partners, and local communities to help shape the scheme's future development, and we look forward to giving everyone an opportunity to see the revised preferred route at these public sessions.

Further consultation on the details of the route will take place in 2018, but in the meantime, the public will be able to view information, including copies of the preferred route booklet, and meet members of the Highways England project team at this month's drop-in sessions.

The events will take place at:

The Manor Barn, High Street, Winterbourne Stoke SP3 4SZ

- Saturday 16 September 11am to 5pm
- Friday, 29 September 2pm to 8pm

Antrobus House, 39 Salisbury Road, Amesbury SP4 7HH

- Friday, 22 September 2pm to 8pm
- Saturday, 23 September 11am to 5pm

Details of the preferred route are also available on the [scheme consultation page](#).

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[News story: Autumn Budget 2017 date confirmed](#)

Government will publish its next Budget on Wednesday 22 November 2017.

[Chancellor announces the date of Autumn Budget 2017](#)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, has announced that the government will publish its Autumn Budget on Wednesday 22 November 2017.

The Autumn Budget sets out the government's plans for the economy based on the latest forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR).

Following the Chancellor's announcement at Autumn Statement 2016, there will now only be [one fiscal event in each year](#), held in the Autumn. From 2018 there will be a Spring Statement, responding to the forecast from the OBR, but no major fiscal event.

Press release: Pay boost for public sector prison staff

- All public sector prison staff to receive a pay uplift after Justice Secretary, David Lidington, implements in full Public Sector Pay Review Body's recommendations
- Pay uplift follows £100 million government investment to recruit 2,500 new prison officers by 2018.

All prison staff in England and Wales will receive a pay boost as Justice Secretary, David Lidington implements in full the independent Public Service Pay Review Body's recommendations.

All prison staff, including operational support grades and governors, will receive an increase to their salary averaging 1.7% across the service.

Justice Secretary David Lidington said:

Our hardworking prison staff do an outstanding job, often in the most challenging of circumstances. It is therefore right that this work is recognised and that they are awarded a well-deserved increase in pay.

During my visits to prisons around the country I have been hugely impressed with the commitment and dedication they show to make prisons safer and improving the lives of the offenders they manage.

Prison officers provide a vital public service. Their work is often out of sight but is crucial to keeping the public safe.

The government has already boosted the pay of thousands of frontline staff in London and the South East thanks to a £12 million package announced in February. Prison officers at 31 establishments have received a boost of up to £5,000 and new starters are now receiving a total pay of up to £29,500 – an increase of £5,000.

The £29 million of funding for the annual pay increase announced today will be drawn from existing budgets. It comes just weeks after the Justice Secretary announced a net increase of 868 new prison officers between January and June 2017. An additional 738 job offers have been made to potential recruits who are expected to start after June 2018.

This means more support for colleagues, and more support for prisoners, implementing the new key-worker scheme that will train each officer to work more closely with 6 offenders, building stronger relationships to bring about

positive change.

By having more staff on the ground, staff will be better supported to do the job they came into the prison service to do, and spend more time reforming offenders.

Press release: Landowners warned to be vigilant of fraudsters

Organised criminals are known to be targeting sites in the West Midlands where they are either requesting to store waste which has been baled or claiming they will use the site for other means like vehicle storage, and then filling the site with baled waste instead.

Landowners are being duped by these criminals with the promise of payment for storage, but even if an initial cash payment is made, the further promised monies don't appear. Instead their land is filled up with the waste and they are left with clean-up costs that can run into the hundreds of thousands of pounds, or potentially a fine or custodial sentence leaving them with a criminal conviction on their record if the waste is not moved or disposed of in an appropriate manner.

The waste bales are being transported using curtain sided lorries and unloaded from the lorries using fork lift trucks. We would urge transport companies and plant hire companies to also be vigilant and not become part of this illegal activity.

Marc Liddeth, Environment Manager said:

A number of recent vehicle stops in the West Midlands found HGVs attempting to dispose of potentially illegal waste. These vehicles were stopped and the waste sent back to the original locations. The Environment Agency and police are investigating but we are unable to give any details at this time as it may damage any further investigations.

The storage of any baled or processed waste is not allowed without an environmental permit being in place. We are sending this warning to landowners, hauliers and plant hire companies to remain vigilant and to prevent them becoming a victim of this scam.

Waste companies, local authorities and businesses all have a

responsibility to check what happens to their waste. We have specialist teams who work in partnership with the police and agencies like HMRC to tackle waste crime. This specialist crime unit uses intelligence to track and prosecute organised crime gangs involved in illegal waste activity.

If you or your company are approached or have any information about those involved in this scam please contact the Environment Agency via their incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60 or anonymously online via [Crimestoppers](#) or by calling 0800 555 111.