



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Rebecca Pow MP
Minister for Environmental Quality and Resilience

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577
E: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk
W: gov.uk/defra

Peter Taylor OBE
Secretary General, Tyre Recovery Association
Offices Above STS Tyre Pros
Corner of Park Street and Osier Way, Park Street
Aylesbury, HP20 1DX
Office@tyrerecovery.org.uk

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Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 9 February to the Secretary of State about reform of the waste exemptions regime. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

I was pleased to be able to publish the Government Response. The reforms will help to prevent dishonest operators from gaming the system and carrying out dangerous activities. Removing the T8 exemption will mean that treatment of end-life tyres will need a permit and that the Environment Agency will have resources to better ensure compliance. It will also remove the ability of illegitimate operators to hide behind the exemption which leads to damage to legitimate businesses and the environment. It is something that was strongly supported by respondents to the consultation.

Defra officials and Welsh Government colleagues will now turn their attention to drafting the affirmative legislation that will amend the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. The preparatory work for this is fairly significant, and the regulations will also need to be prioritised against other parliamentary business, but like you, I wish to see this happen swiftly.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact us about this important issue.

REBECCA POW MP