



Dame Angela Eagle DBE MP
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Via email: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk

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Dear Dame Angela

Waste crime amendments to the Crime and Policing Bill

As you will be aware, on 25 February the House of Lords agreed a series of amendments to the Crime and Policing Bill aimed at strengthening the response to waste crime.

Amendment 13 seeks to improve guidance on cost recovery following convictions and to require greater coordination between waste authorities and the police, ensuring that landowners and communities affected by fly-tipping are not left to shoulder the cost of clearance. Amendment 19 would introduce three penalty points on the driving licence of those convicted of fly-tipping, while Amendment 20 would enable the seizure of vehicles used in such offences. Most significantly, Amendment 21 would place a duty on local waste authorities to remove fly-tipped waste and pursue cost recovery from offenders, relieving private landowners of the financial burden associated with crimes committed against them.

We recognise that the government has not supported these amendments to date and that procedural mechanisms exist to overturn them during ping pong. We also understand concerns about placing additional financial pressures on local authorities.

However, the Lords debate made clear that the current system is fundamentally unjust. Landowners who are victims of fly-tipping are, in effect, penalised twice. First through the criminal act itself and then through the requirement to pay for its removal. This position is difficult to defend.

Moreover, local authorities are not separate from the drivers of fly-tipping. They play a central role in determining access to legitimate waste disposal services, including their availability, cost and convenience and are typically responsible for enforcement

activity. Retaining the current system risks creating a perverse incentive, whereby the burden remains with landowners while the levers to address the root causes sit elsewhere.

Requiring local authorities to take responsibility for clearance, while pursuing recovery from offenders, would help to realign incentives, strengthen enforcement and ensure a fairer outcome for those affected.

We therefore urge you to accept, in particular, Amendments 13 and 21. Alternatively, we encourage the government to bring forward its own amendments that deliver the same core principle: that the victims of fly-tipping should not be treated as those responsible for its consequences.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Bonner
Chief Executive, Countryside Alliance



Gavin Lane
President, Country Land and Business Association



Robyn Munt
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John Read
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