



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Refuse derived fuel market in England

Defra response to the call for evidence

December 2014

F. Interventions that will not be taken forward as a follow-up to the call for evidence

51. There were a number of interventions suggested in responses to the call for evidence that the Government does not propose to take forward. Some of these contradict longstanding Government policy on the free market whilst others relate to work that is being undertaken by the other Government departments. The interventions that are not being taken forward are summarised below:

Banning or taxing exports of RDF

52. In light of concerns about the export of RDF, a small number of respondents called for exports of RDF to be banned or taxed. This included taxing exports of RDF that contain significant quantities of recyclates, taxing the storage of RDF for export and banning exports of RDF to the Continent from 1 January 2020.

53. The UK is a firm believer in free trade and does not want to impose unnecessary barriers to trade. In addition, the free movement of goods (which includes RDF) within the European Union (EU) is a fundamental principle underpinning the EU single market. If the UK were to apply stricter requirements on exporters of RDF to other Member States compared to those covering production of RDF for the UK market (provided that it is shipped in accordance with the controls set out in the Waste Shipments Regulation), this would be likely to constitute a breach of EU law. Furthermore, the World Trade Organisation does not permit countries to discriminate between their own and foreign products.

54. In line with this, Defra does not wish to discriminate between RDF produced for domestic plants and RDF produced for plants abroad in the tax regime.

55. Some respondents called for exports of RDF to be banned in order to ensure that the waste is used domestically so the energy recovered contributes towards domestic energy security and renewable energy targets.

56. Waste makes a useful contribution to the Government's objectives of delivering a secure, low carbon and affordable energy system and can make further contributions, in particular by supplying heat via heat networks. The Government wants this to continue where its application is consistent with the principles of the waste hierarchy. Rather than restricting exports, the Government believes its focus should be to encourage greater competitiveness in UK-based energy from waste deployment, such as expanding markets for renewable energy. There are a range of government interventions and incentive schemes to encourage increased deployment of low carbon energy, and the Heat Networks Delivery Unit has been set up by the Department of energy & Climate Change (DECC) to encourage an expansion of district heating.