

From: Robin Edwards
Sent: 22 July 2016 09:12
To: Dave Etheridge
Subject: RE: Voice your views on council's scrap metal policy

Hi Dave,

I have read through the document and I see no issues at all with it, in fact I want to commend you on re-enforcing the importance of the act to the recycling industry.

I'm afraid to say that over the last 6 months or so the last of the dedicated teams have been disbanded and this is a real shame. You may be aware of the problems we are facing in the East of England with lead theft. It's becoming a significant problem and in Norfolk they had seven churches hit in as many weeks and they are not alone. At the end of last year I trained over a hundred police officers and not one of them had any knowledge of the SMDA 2013 or what to look for when visiting a scrap yard.

One of the other problems which is re-emerging is the use of cash; I am receiving reports of cash returning on a daily basis, and we are not just talking about small amounts but also the larger quantities between businesses. I report this via my contacts in the NCA and HMRC, but as you can imagine this is resource intensive and is often ignored.

Most of my work is focused on corporate asset theft which is the hidden problem that is often ignored or missed. Businesses are losing, millions of pounds as a result of unscrupulous contractors, employees and scrap dealers. However, all of this material is being sold to scrap dealers who now (with exceptions) facing very little if any scrutiny from enforcement agencies.

Again I would like to congratulate you on your efforts and if more areas took the same stance we might be able to keep a lid on this.

Thanks

Rob

Kind Regards

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