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Dear Mark

Recovery of Street Sweepings and Gully Emptyings

Thank you for your letter, received 23 August, about the LATS guidance on recovery of street sweepings and gully emptyings which we issued in May.

The LATS guidance sets out the existing regulatory framework for managing these wastes, rather than introduce new requirements on waste authorities. The document was produced to explain, in the format of frequently asked questions, existing recovery options. We did not consider it necessary to give notice to waste authorities that the guidance was being issued since it is essentially a reminder of what constitutes good practice.

Street sweepings and gully emptyings are non-source segregated wastes which may contain heavy metals, other physical contaminants and have a high leachable organic content. They can contain non-biodegradable waste and contaminants which will not be treated by an aerobic or anaerobic process alone. Untreated street sweepings and gully emptyings are not identified in PAS100 as suitable input waste to produce quality compost. The LATS guidance reflects this position. As noted in FAQ C4 we are reviewing whether dedicated leaf litter collections may be composted and aim to issue a statement about this in October.

As outlined in the LATS guidance, treated street sweepings and gully emptyings can be recovered. Treated organic fractions may be suitable for further biological treatment to produce a compost like output which could be recovered as a waste under suitable permits. For LATS, such recovery remains valid diversion from landfill.

Queries about classification of street sweepings & gully emptyings for local authority recycling performance should be directed to Defra.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

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