



21 AUGUST 2026

DWTS Webinar: Your Questions Answered

CIWM and Vaste Technologies | Webinar held 12 August 2026

Prepared by Vaste Technologies. DEFRA DWTS Private Beta participant, listed on DEFRA's published list of DWTS software providers, having passed all 14 production approval tests with no exemptions.

0330 122 7433 · evans.chelal@vaste.bio · vaste.bio/contact

Thank you to everyone who joined. Close to 300 of you registered and more than 210 came along on the day. You asked more questions than we could take on the call, so we have answered them here.

Questions are grouped by theme rather than in the order they were asked, as many of the questions covered similar topics. Where an answer is based on DEFRA guidance or the Regulations, we have indicated this.

Answers here reflect DEFRA policy and guidance, not Vaste opinion. Where a point comes from DEFRA guidance, a DEFRA response or the Regulations, a source line says so. The current guidance is worth reading in full: [Digital waste tracking: check if you need to report the waste you receive](#).

Contents

1. Scope: am I in?	3
2. Household waste and HWRCs	4
3. Local authorities and contracted operations	5
4. The reporting obligation and deadlines	6
5. Corrections and errors	7
6. Waste transfer notes, returns and existing paperwork	8
7. EWC codes and waste classification	9
8. Registration, API codes and the £26 charge	10
9. Software choice	11
10. Carriers and Phase 2, from October 2027	12
11. Enforcement	13
12. How Vaste works	14
13. Useful links	15

What are the tests for being in scope?

Two, and both must be true. First, the site is permitted or licensed to receive controlled waste. Second, the waste arrives accompanied by a Waste Transfer Note or a hazardous consignment note.

If both are true, you are in scope for Phase 1. If the waste you receive does not travel on a WTN or consignment note today, you are out of scope for Phase 1 regardless of holding a permit. DEFRA guidance confirms this applies to all permitted operations, installations and mobile plants, including sites located where the waste is produced.

If you are unsure whether what you receive is controlled waste, the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 set out the definitions.

Source: DEFRA, Digital waste tracking: check if you need to report the waste you receive, 7 August 2026.

Would movements of sludge from one sewage treatment works to a sludge treatment hub be in scope? And tankering from the network to a sewage works during a repair?

Apply the same two tests. If the receiving site is permitted and the movement travels on a Waste Transfer Note today, it is in scope. If it moves under a different regime, it is not.

Because sludge movements sit across waste and sludge-use rules depending on the specific movements and permits, we recommend contacting your regulator if you are unsure.

Do the regulations cover cess and septic waste?

Cess and septic waste is not in scope. The test remains the same: if what you receive is not controlled waste accompanied by a Waste Transfer Note or consignment note into your permitted site, you are not in scope for Phase 1.

Are transfers between an HWRC and other permitted sites in the same company in scope? And household waste taken to a bulking facility or processor?

Yes. The receiving site records it. The regulations make no distinction based on who the waste producer is, so the obligation remains where the waste receiver and waste producer are the same legal entity. This also applies where the material originated as household waste, provided it is controlled waste received at a permitted site.

Waste received from the public at an HWRC is transferred to a transfer station and mixed with commercial waste. How is that recorded?

It is recorded at the receiving site, in this case the transfer station, when it arrives there. The original deposit by the resident at the HWRC is not reported.

Why is household waste not in scope to record?

The mandate targets the movement of controlled waste. When a member of the public deposits waste at an HWRC, the material only becomes classified as controlled waste once it has been discarded. That is why the deposit itself is not reported, while onward movement from the HWRC to another permitted site is.

This is reflected in the guidance. You do not have to use the Report receipt of waste service if you operate an HWRC in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, or if you receive household waste from residents at an HWRC in England.

Commercial waste is separate. HWRC operators in England must record commercial waste received into permitted sites in Phase 1. For Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, this comes in the future.

Where waste arrives at any permitted site without a registered carrier, the record carries a DEFRA-defined reason explaining why.

Source: DEFRA, Digital waste tracking service policy paper, and Digital waste tracking: check if you need to report the waste you receive, 7 August 2026.

Is kerbside collected waste in scope only once it is disposed of?

Kerbside collected waste is in scope as soon as it is received at a transfer station or disposal point, and the site receiving it reports it. The collection and movement of that waste is covered under Phase 2 from October 2027.

Borough collected waste, where does it get reported?

At the receiving site. If that is an HWRC, the HWRC is in scope for that material, subject to the household waste position above.

For a local authority that has outsourced household and commercial collections, who is responsible? We do not see weighbridge tickets daily.

The determining question is who holds the permit at the receiving site. The reporting obligation sits with the permit holder, and it does not transfer with an operating contract.

If your contractor holds the permit for the site receiving the waste, the obligation is theirs. If you hold the permit and they operate it, the obligation remains yours even though they run the weighbridge.

If you are in the second position, two things are worth settling before October. First, whether your contractor's system can submit to DEFRA's API, and who will actually make the submissions. Second, how you will get visibility of what is being submitted in your name, because at the moment you do not see the tickets and after October those tickets become a regulatory record attached to your permit.

Do local authorities need to report all commercial and trade waste received? The waste is collected in RCVs, which would be multiple loads, and tipped at the authority's transfer station.

Yes, commercial and trade waste received at the transfer station is reported by the transfer station.

A tipping event is a single receipt. You record the load as it arrives. The individual collections come into scope in Phase 2, when carriers are brought in.

Will local authorities carrying trade waste in RCVs be required to report in Phase 2?

Yes, as carriers, and that covers residual waste, dry mixed recycling (DMR), food waste and other waste streams.

Are local authorities exempt from the £26 service charge?

No. All local authorities must pay the service charge.

Source: DEFRA response to Vaste, August 2026.

How will DWTS submissions interact with WasteDataFlow?

Digital waste tracking is expected to eventually replace many of the functions currently provided by WasteDataFlow. Further work is needed to fully understand the data requirements for local authorities and to ensure the new system captures all necessary information. For now, both run in parallel and WasteDataFlow reporting continues unchanged.

Source: DEFRA response to Vaste, August 2026.

What exactly is the deadline?

You must submit records within 2 working days, excluding weekends and bank holidays, starting on the day after you receive the waste.

DEFRA's worked example: waste received at 9am on Monday must be submitted, and a unique reference number received, by 11:59pm on Wednesday.

The count is in working days, so a Friday receipt is due by 11:59pm on Tuesday. You also need the unique reference number back, so allow time for the submission to be accepted.

Source: DEFRA, [Digital waste tracking: check if you need to report the waste you receive](#), 7 August 2026.

What if waste arrives by pipeline?

If your waste is piped over more than 1 day, the 2-day timeframe begins the day after you receive the last load.

If the waste is piped continuously, the timeframe begins the day after the earliest of the following dates:

- the end date of the quarter in the waste transfer or consignment note
- the day the piping stops

Source: DEFRA, [Digital waste tracking: check if you need to report the waste you receive](#), 7 August 2026.

What happens during an outage?

If you cannot submit because of an outage such as building damage or network failure, you must tell your regulator as soon as you can, unless you have been notified that the outage is on the service side. You then make and retain a written record of the receipt within two working days from the day after the load arrived, and transfer that record to the service within seven working days from the day after the outage is resolved. Your regulator can ask to see the written record.

What if we cannot realistically use digital tools at all?

There is a narrow digitally excluded route, and it is worth understanding how narrow it is. It applies where it is not practical to use digital tools because of age, disability or location, or where a business is run entirely by practising members of a religious society whose beliefs are not compatible with electronic communications or records.

It explicitly does not apply if you simply prefer paper records, are unfamiliar with software, or would face extra time or cost to comply.

If you qualify, you need a digitally excluded number issued by your regulator, you make written records within the same two working day window, you include the number on every record, and you retain records for at least three years. If your circumstances change you must notify the regulator, and you then have a 28-day transition period before you must use the service.

Is there a process to correct records after submission?

Yes. The system is designed to allow corrections after submission. There is no way to cancel a record once submitted, but you can submit an update against the same movement ID.

A common example is recording a movement on arrival and submitting it, then processing the waste and finding something has changed, such as the recovery or disposal decision. You submit an update to the record.

The same approach applies to data submitted through API integrations.

How long after submission can a record be updated?

DEFRA guidance is now specific: you must correct any error as soon as you can, and always within one month of discovering it. That applies both to errors in the data you submitted and to errors in the waste information you were given.

Records remain editable after that period. The overriding objective is that the system ultimately holds accurate information, so a correction should be made whenever an error comes to light.

Separately, if you receive a notification from DEFRA or from your software about an error with a submission, you must correct that within the same two working day timeframe as the original submission.

We asked DEFRA directly whether there is a point at which updating a movement becomes non-viable, for example at six or twelve weeks. There are currently no timelines on this. It has been discussed and could be implemented in future, but there are no plans at present.

Source: DEFRA guidance, 7 August 2026, and DEFRA response to Vaste.

Who is penalised if a software glitch causes a late or zero report?

The obligation sits with the permit holder. Any recourse you have against a software provider is a contractual matter between you and them, and separate from the regulatory position.

In practice, this is part of what the enforcement process allows for. Where a regulator intends to impose a monetary penalty, they serve a notice of intention first and you have 28 days to make a written objection, which is where circumstances of that kind would be raised.

It is also worth asking any provider what happens when a submission fails: whether you are told, how quickly, and whether failures are visible in one place or you have to go looking for them.

Does DWTS replace waste transfer notes?

No. DWTS does not replace waste transfer notes; the two requirements operate alongside each other.

DEFRA is explicit that the current paper-based method will initially continue to run alongside the new digital service. You must continue to complete waste transfer notes, Annex VII forms and hazardous waste consignment notes where required, until further notice.

You must also continue to submit waste returns in line with your permit conditions, and hazardous waste consignee returns, for which charges still apply. Government and the regulators will develop transition plans for the move from data returns to service data, but that is future work rather than something happening in October.

Source: DEFRA, Digital waste tracking: check if you need to report the waste you receive, 7 August 2026.

What about annual waste transfer notes, sometimes called season tickets? Do they become redundant?

No. A digital DWTS record is required for each individual load received, even where an annual WTN is in place.

For non-hazardous movements, the DWTS submission does not require the unique WTN reference number, so the existence of an annual WTN does not affect the digital reporting requirement. Each load must still be recorded and submitted separately.

Source: DEFRA response to Vaste.

If a load of hazardous waste arrives with multiple consignment notes, how is it recorded?

Each consignment note must be entered as a separate waste item. Systems handle this differently. In Vaste, you can add multiple distinct waste items, each carrying its own consignment note, and submit them as a batch. This generates a unique tracking ID for each load.

Can we use the DWTS record as our Duty of Care record, or do we need to keep records separately?

Keep your own records separately. DWTS is a reporting obligation to the regulator; it does not replace your Duty of Care record keeping, and you should not rely on the service as your archive.

How will this affect waste producers, and will it replace WTNs for businesses giving waste to local authorities?

It will not replace them. Waste producers have no obligation under Phase 1, and producers are not in Phase 2 either. DEFRA has not confirmed whether producers will be brought into scope at any point.

Businesses giving waste to a local authority continue to complete WTNs exactly as they do now. What changes is that the receiving site also submits a digital record.

Where do the EWC codes come from? Do we set them up, or are they pre-populated? Does the system read them from the permit?

In Vaste, this is handled during onboarding and site configuration. Our system auto-selects the EWC codes on your permit, and those become part of your governance controls. We check them for completeness, existence and accuracy as part of that process.

You can also set permit limits and material-specific limits at the same time, which gives you a real-time view of how much inventory you are holding against those limits at any point.

If you are using a different provider, ask them whether codes are configured against your permit or presented as the full national list. Configuring against the permit reduces the chance of selecting a code your site is not authorised to accept.

Does the software refuse EWC codes that are not on the permit? What if non-conforming waste arrives and the site struggles to turn it away?

DEFRA does not mandate how software handles codes outside your permit.

In Vaste, this is a governance control that can be configured against your permit to prevent miscoding and misclassification. For waste that arrives and is not on your permitted code list, Vaste also provides a separate quarantine workflow to record and manage the movement appropriately. This allows the operator to evidence how non-conforming waste has been handled rather than coding it to an EWC code that does not accurately reflect the waste received.

What about very old permits that do not use EWC codes?

This is a real problem and it affects more sites than people assume. Because the answer depends on the wording of your specific permit, this is one to raise with your regulator directly, and we would suggest doing so sooner rather than later given the volume of similar enquiries they are likely to receive between now and October.

If it is useful, we are happy to look at your permit with you and identify where the gaps are before you go to the regulator, so that the conversation is a short one.

Will the European Waste Catalogue be updated to reflect modern waste streams such as vapes, e-bikes and drones?

No commitment has been made to an EWC revision. Officials have acknowledged that existing codes are ageing, that new waste streams continue to emerge, and that better waste categorisation is increasingly important for regulatory purposes.

The regulator's view is that digital waste tracking will generate evidence that could support future policy reviews and possible changes to waste classification. That is a longer-term prospect. EWC reform is recognised as important but is not part of the digital waste tracking implementation programme.

Source: DEFRA response to a previous ESA webinar, 9 June 2026.

How does the API code work? Does the operator get it from DEFRA and give it to their software provider?

Yes. You create or use a DEFRA account, sign up to the Report receipt of waste service and enter your organisation details. DEFRA issues the credentials, and you provide them to your software provider so that submissions are made under your registration.

This is your step rather than your provider's, and it is worth doing early because everything else depends on it.

Is the £26 charge per organisation, or per site or permit?

The charge applies per legal entity that creates or edits records. A site with three permits under one legal entity pays once.

It is an upfront annual charge giving twelve months of rolling access, it applies once the service becomes mandatory, and it is paid to DEFRA rather than to a software provider. Every receiving organisation pays it regardless of which software they use.

Will one account cover a group where permits are held by several subsidiary legal entities?

One DEFRA account can cover several organisations. If you operate more than one organisation that receives waste, for example a subsidiary business or a partnership, you can add them to the same DEFRA account.

Each organisation must be registered separately before it is added to your account, and the annual service charge applies to each organisation you add.

Source: DEFRA response to Vaste, August 2026.

Will regulators require details of intended DWTS software or arrangements as part of permit applications and variations?

DEFRA's response is that this needs to be discussed with the relevant regulator. If you have a variation in progress, raise it with your case officer rather than waiting, as the position may differ between the Environment Agency, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales and DAERA.

Source: DEFRA response to Vaste, August 2026.

How often do we need to check the spreadsheet version?

Download the template fresh from DEFRA each time you use it rather than reusing a saved copy, so that you know you are on the current version.

It is worth being clear that the spreadsheet is a temporary route for receivers who do not yet have compatible software. DEFRA expects it to remain available until at least October 2027. It does not scale, and you only get a tracking reference back through the service.

Do we have to use Vaste, or could we use our existing system such as Access Weighsoft?

You are not obliged to use Vaste or any particular provider. What you need is a route that submits to DEFRA's API. That can be a provider from DEFRA's published list, your own direct integration if you have the development capability in house, or the temporary spreadsheet route.

DEFRA publishes and maintains a list of compatible software providers. Providers on that list have integrated with the Receipt of Waste API and passed DEFRA's production approval tests. If you are considering an existing supplier, check the list and ask them directly which PAT scenarios they cover and whether they hold any exemptions.

The list is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-receipt-of-waste-choose-a-software-provider/report-receipt-of-waste-choose-a-software-provider>

On Vaste specifically: we have been submitting to DEFRA's live API longer than almost anyone in the market. We joined the private beta in autumn 2025, and as of January 2026 only three providers had completed integration with DEFRA. Vaste was one of them. That matters because the edge cases in waste reporting, mirror codes, POPs with multiple components, hazardous loads with several consignment notes, only surface in production. We have been resolving them since before the list existed, and we passed all 14 production approval tests with no exemptions.

Can Vaste interface directly with weighbridge software, and can it capture more data than the DEFRA submission requires? The DEFRA submission is only a subset of what our weighbridges capture.

Yes to both. We support three routes for getting waste movements to DEFRA, and we work with your existing systems rather than asking you to change them. The three routes are set out in section 12.

On capturing more than the DEFRA subset: yes. The DEFRA submission is a defined set of fields, but there is no reason your own records should be limited to it, and most operators want more than the regulator requires.

Can the API be limited to incoming trade records only?

Yes. DEFRA Phase 1 is focused on inbound controlled waste movements, so the API can be used to submit the required incoming waste records.

If you choose to use our inventory functionality, you can also record outbound movements and transfers between your own sites for your own purposes. That is operational rather than regulatory: for DWTS, only inbound movements are required.

Several questions were about how Phase 2 will work. Here is what is known, and what is genuinely not yet decided.

None of the Phase 2 uncertainty changes what you need to do now. Registering with DEFRA, obtaining your API code, configuring your sites and standardising your EWC codes are Phase 1 requirements in their own right, and that work is not wasted whichever way the Phase 2 design lands. If it turns out a separate credential is needed, that becomes a registration step in 2027. It does not affect what you need to have in place for 2026.

What is confirmed about Phase 2?

- It covers carriers, brokers and dealers from October 2027.
- Waste producers are not included, and DEFRA has not confirmed whether they ever will be.
- Local authorities carrying trade waste in RCVs will be in scope as carriers, covering residual, DMR, food and other streams.
- The Phase 2 private beta opens in autumn 2026.

Will one API code cover receiving waste now and carrier movements from October 2027? Will in-cab systems export to DWTS? When carriers are in scope, will the receiving site record the carrier's tracking ID, and how will the audit trail join up?

These are not answerable yet, and we would rather say so than guess.

The carrier side of the service has not been designed. DEFRA opens the Phase 2 private beta in autumn 2026, and questions like credential continuity, how carrier and receiver records reconcile, and whether in-cab systems feed the service directly are exactly what that beta exists to settle.

We will be following the autumn beta closely and will write to everyone who attended once the position is clearer.

We have a mobile plant permit but also tip into other disposal facilities. Can we use one API code for receiving now and for carrier movements from October 2027?

Same answer as above. Register now for your receiving obligation, because that is required from October 2026 regardless. The carrier position will be settled through the Phase 2 beta.

Once carriers are using DWTS, will a waste producer be able to track where their waste goes, or do they continue Duty of Care due diligence as they do now?

They continue as they do now. DWTS does not currently give producers a tracking view of their own waste, and producers have no obligation under Phase 1 or Phase 2.

Whether producer visibility is built in later is a design decision that has not been made. For now, Duty of Care due diligence continues in its existing form.

What should the receiving site record where the haulier is registered outside the UK?

Under Phase 1, only waste sent and received within the UK is in scope. Your existing obligations are unchanged, so Annex VII forms and transfrontier shipment paperwork continue as they do now.

Source: DEFRA response to Vaste, August 2026.

What happens if we do not comply?

You commit an offence if you do not comply with the rules, and that includes rules on deadlines, outages, written records, correcting errors, digital exclusion, and making accurate records.

The available sanctions are:

Sanction	Detail
Compliance notice	Requires you to come back into compliance.
Enforcement cost recovery notice	Recovers the regulator's costs of the enforcement action.
Variable monetary penalty	Unlimited amount.
Fixed monetary penalty	£1,000.
Criminal prosecution	If convicted, an unlimited fine.
Imprisonment	Up to 2 years if you knowingly make false or misleading statements or records to regulators.

Liability can also attach personally. Where a contravention occurred with the consent or connivance (knowing involvement or deliberate allowance) of, or was attributable to neglect by, a director, manager or officer, a sanction can be imposed on that individual as well as on the company.

Source: DEFRA, Digital waste tracking: check if you need to report the waste you receive, 7 August 2026, and Schedule 2 of the Digital Waste Tracking (England) Regulations 2026.

Is there a process before a penalty is imposed?

Yes. If you receive a notice of intention to serve a monetary penalty, you have 28 days to submit a written objection to your regulator. They consider objections and may then issue a final notice, which may be modified.

You can appeal a final monetary penalty notice, a compliance notice or an enforcement cost recovery notice to the first-tier tribunal within two months, on the grounds that the decision was based on a factual error, wrong in law, or unreasonable. If you appeal, the notice is suspended, except for compliance notices, until the appeal is resolved.

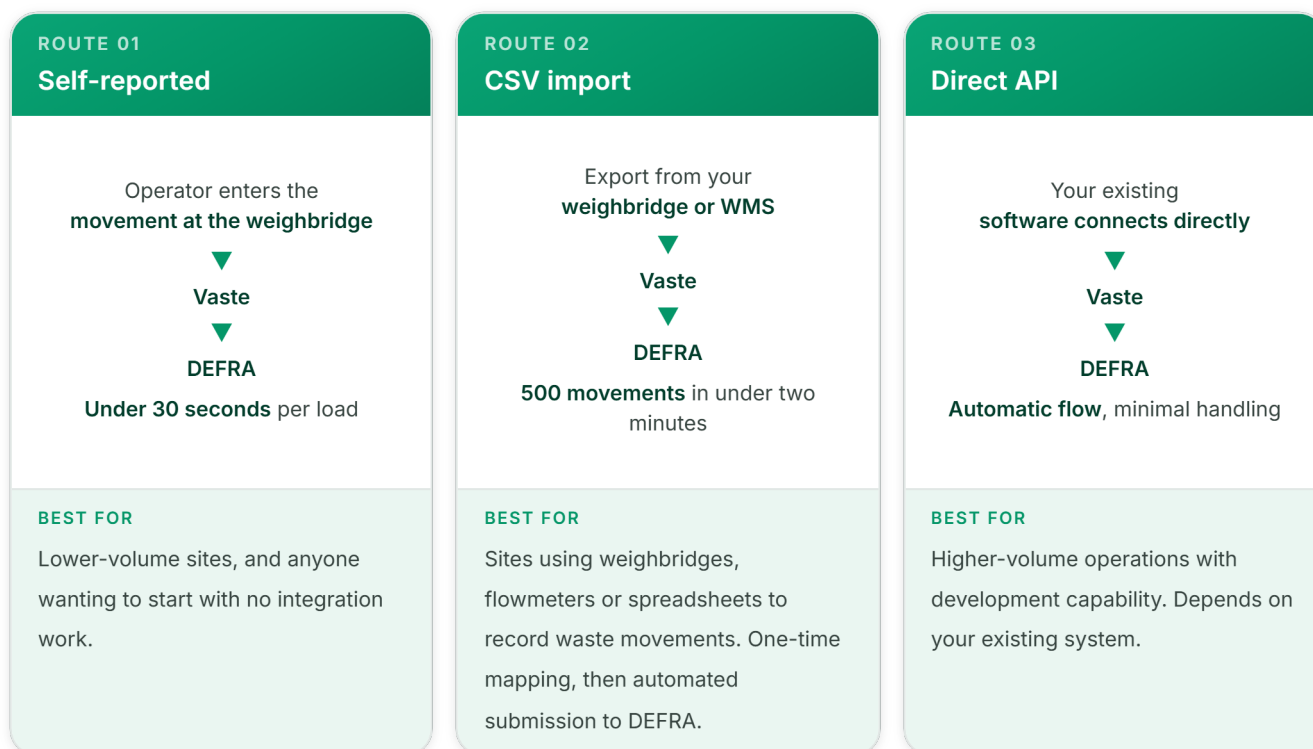
Is enforcement action made public?

Yes. Your regulator maintains a publicly available register of convictions, civil sanctions and enforcement cost recovery notices. Civil sanctions appear once any appeal is resolved or the appeal window has passed, and must be removed within four years. Convictions are removed once the relevant rehabilitation period is complete.

For most operators, the public record carries more commercial weight than the penalty itself.

What are the three ways of getting data to DEFRA?

DEFRA gives you one route in, which is the API. What differs between providers is how your data reaches it. We support three approaches, because a site running 20 loads a week and a site running 400 loads a day are not the same problem.



Most sites start with self-reported submissions during the public beta and move to CSV or API once staff are confident. You are not locked into your first choice.

What governance controls are available?

EWC codes are configured against your permit at onboarding, checked for completeness, existence and accuracy. You can set permit limits and material-specific limits, giving a real-time view of inventory held against those limits. A separate quarantine workflow handles waste arriving outside your permitted codes.

- DEFRA guidance: check if you need to report the waste you receive: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/digital-waste-tracking-check-if-you-need-to-report-the-waste-you-receive>
- DEFRA digital waste tracking service policy paper: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/digital-waste-tracking-service/digital-waste-tracking-service>
- DEFRA published list of software providers: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-receipt-of-waste-choose-a-software-provider/report-receipt-of-waste-choose-a-software-provider>
- The Digital Waste Tracking (England) Regulations 2026: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2026/729/made>
- The Digital Waste Tracking (Wales) Regulations 2026: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2026/105/made>
- The Digital Waste Tracking (Scotland) Regulations 2026: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2026/145/made>
- DEFRA spreadsheet walkthrough: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lJ7a4kd9cU>
- Vaste: what non-compliance actually costs you: <https://vaste.bio/resources/insights/dwts-penalties-what-non-compliance-actually-costs-you>

DEFRA support team: 03000 203 781, Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm except public holidays.

For questions about waste regulation, contact your regulator: the Environment Agency in England, Natural Resources Wales, SEPA in Scotland, or DAERA in Northern Ireland.



Getting in touch

If you would like to talk through whether your sites are in scope, get support obtaining your DEFRA API code, or see what compliance would look like in practice for your own operations:

0330 122 7433

evans.chelal@vaste.bio

<https://vaste.bio/contact>

Thank you again for the questions. Every question asked on the day is answered in this document.

Evans Chelal, CEO, Vaste Technologies