

Wednesday, 30 January 2019

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO EA'S FINDINGS REGARDING NORTHERN COMPLIANCE

We are disappointed that the Environment Agency (EA) has withdrawn Northern Compliance's licence today, under Regulation 58 (3)

The EA had originally communicated that they would allow time for Northern Compliance to challenge DEFRA, after introducing a retrospective and disproportionate PBS uplift in the 2017 compliance fee mechanism.

Vincent Eckerman, the Director of Northern Compliance commented:

"We respectfully acknowledge the EA's findings, however we disagree with them and are of the opinion that Northern Compliance did not in fact break any of DEFRA's UK WEEE Regulations in 2017.

"DEFRA's policy to introduce a retrospective and disproportionate PBS uplift for those businesses choosing not to join what was described as a 'voluntary' scheme; coupled with the introduction of an unfair compliance management fee mechanism, had a catastrophic effect on our business.

"We want to put it on the record that in 2018 all Northern Comiances' former members, bar one exception, funded their obligations and Northern Compliance has met those obligations in full, commensurate with the funding provided.

"Northern Compliance believes in a recycling system that is fair and importantly operates in a market that is competitive.

"In a world where waste management is a vital environmental concern, it is important that the business of recycling remains competitive. Anti-competitive behaviour does not just affect business alone, but ultimately creates less options for consumers to dispose of their recyclable goods properly."