

External Summary:

The PCS Balancing Scheme (PBS)

This summary has been prepared to assist external organisations in understanding the key points about the PBS.

Background

Regulation 34 of the WEEE Regulations (R34) allows the operator of a local authority Designated Collection Facility (DCF) to request that a Producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) makes a collection of WEEE from the DCF. The Environment Agency (EA) have prepared guidance on this – attached.

All stakeholders agree that such requests are not the most effective way to arrange collections from DCFs - they were put into the Regulations as a 'safety valve' rather than as a *modus operandi*. In summary the arrangements:

- have a very short mobilisation period;
- are one-off (though multiple requests can be made);
- make no provision for container arrangements;
- are not very practical for contractors needing to commit to staff and equipment; and
- as a result are not an efficient approach to collections from local authority DCFs.

Purpose of the PBS

The PBS aims to ensure that valid Regulation 34 requests made by local authorities to any of the participating PCSs can be dealt with in a way which:

- Meets the legal requirements of R34;
- Spreads the burden of responding amongst the participating PCSs;
- Provides (if required) for a recurring arrangement which is likely to be more practical for all parties - and thus more efficient.

Not all PCSs have yet chosen to participate in the PBS. It is important for DCF operators to be aware that they are entitled to approach any UK WEEE PCS with a R34 request – and that responding to valid R34 requests is a condition of PCS registration. Those schemes which have chosen to work together to support the UK WEEE system through participating in the PBS will be at a disadvantage if they alone are chosen for R34 requests.

Summary¹

The requirements for a valid R34 request must still be met – for example: the request must be for a local authority DCF, made by a local authority or an operator contracted to a local authority, a previous PCS contract must have been in place and expired or terminated, volume of material requiring collection should be economic.

The PCSs participating in the PBS have appointed an independent third party (Anthesis) to manage the PBS (the Operator) on a confidential basis on their behalf.

A series of stages will be followed sequentially. Each stream of WEEE will be considered separately:

<p>The PCS receiving the request can decide to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• make the requested collection at its own cost and retain the evidence; or• pass the request on to the PBS Operator.
<p>Stage 1</p> <p>The Operator will circulate details of the request to all PBS participants. Participants have the opportunity (on a first come first served basis) to make the requested collection at their own cost and retain the evidence.</p>
<p>Stage 2</p> <p>The Operator will circulate the details of the request to all PBS participants, requesting bids to undertake the collection. The PCS providing the lowest priced bid will be asked to undertake the collection. Costs and resulting evidence will be passed to the Operator and shared proportionately amongst all PBS participants.</p>
<p>Stage 3</p> <p>If no bids are received within the 1 day timescale of Stage 2, the Operator will recirculate the request as per stage 2.</p>
<p>Stage 4</p> <p>If no bids are received within the 1 day timescale of Stage 3, the Operator will select a PCS using a random rotation amongst PBS participants. Costs and resulting evidence will be passed to the Operator and shared proportionately amongst all PBS participants.</p>
<p>The collection will be made within the timescale required by R34.</p>

Rather than submitting an R34 request every time a collection is required a DCF operator may ask that the request be considered to be a recurring one. In this case the PCS selected through Stages 2 - 4 above shall continue to provide the collections on this basis for 6 months or until the end of the Compliance Period – whichever is the greater.

It is also envisaged that DCF operators planning to make a R34 request may approach the Operator directly to allow a longer period within which to go through the above steps.

This summary has been prepared by ERP UK to assist external organisations in understanding the key points about the PBS.

December 2017

¹ The PBS has been brought into operation with the expectation amongst participants that some of the details may require review after a few months of operation.

Mid-Ulster District Council - DISPLAY WEEE stream information

			Display		
Mid Ulster District Council	Collection Point	Post Code	Container	Collection frequency	Estimated Annual tonnage
	Castledawson HWRC	BT45 8HN	3 cages	1 x fortnight	14
	Clogher HWRC	BT76 0TG	3 cages	1 x fortnight	4
	Coalisland HWRC	BT71 4HY	3 cages	2 x week	39
	Cookstown HWRC	BT80 8NR	20' RoRo	1 x 3 weeks	46
	Draperstown HWRC	BT45 7AF	3 cages	1 x week	15
	Dungannon Drumcoo HWRC	BT71 6JT	20' RoRo	1 x 3 weeks	22
	Fivemiletown HWRC	BT75 0LF	2 cages	1 x month	6
	Maghera HWRC	BT46 5BS	3 cages	1 x week	23
	Magherafelt HWRC	BT45 6EN	4 cages	1 x week	27
	Moneymore HWRC	BT45 7XJ	4 cages	1 x fortnight	16
	Tullyvar Landfill HWRC	BT69 6BN	4 cages	1 x fortnight	19