

Report on	Waste Management Licensing Technical Competence Update
Date of Meeting	8 th July 2024
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Karl McGowan, Waste and Sustainable Development Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform members about changes to the management of technical competence under the Northern Ireland Waste Management Licensing and Permitting Regime.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 supported by a number of pieces of subordinate legislation, transposes the key requirements of the Waste Framework Directive. The requirement to protect the environment and human health was put in place by way of a number of measures including provisions that allow NIEA to determine if a person controlling waste is a fit and proper person.
2.2	In order for someone to be considered a fit and proper person (for the purposes of holding a waste management licence and/or permit), amongst other things they must be technically competent. Currently in Northern Ireland, waste operators are able to demonstrate technical competence by obtaining relevant/approved Operator Competence Certificate(s) (OCCs) from the Waste Management Industry Training & Advisory Board (WAMITAB).
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Correspondence was received from the NIEA on the 22 nd February 2024 that they are currently updating their Operator Competence Certificate (OCC) records for waste management facilities. A request was made for submission of the details for all persons that currently provide technical competence cover for Mid Ulster District Council waste facilities and copies of their certificates / training progress.
3.2	The Council currently has a number of post holders who have been awarded Operator Competence Certificate(s) by WAMITAB with a number of others currently in progress. They are in relation to the operation of non-hazardous landfills, and for treatment and transfer of wastes as detailed the table below:

Post	Qualification	Covering Sites
Waste & Sustainable Development Manager	Managing Landfill - Non Hazardous Waste - 4MLNH Managing Physical & Chemical Treatment of Hazardous Waste - HROC6	Tullyvar Landfill Site Tullyvar HWRC & Transfer Station Magheraglass Landfill Site Magheraglass Transfer Station Ballymacombs Landfill Site Ballymacombs HWRC Fivemiletown HWRC
Landfill site supervisor	Managing Landfill - Non Hazardous Waste - 4MLNH	Tullyvar Landfill Site Tullyvar HWRC & Transfer Station Magheraglass Landfill Site Magheraglass Transfer Station Ballymacombs Landfill Site Ballymacombs HWRC
Waste & Sustainability Officer	Hazardous Transfer HROC4A (In progress)	Magherafelt HWRC & Transfer Station Cookstown HWRC Drumcoo HWRC & Transfer Station
Neighbourhood Operations Officer (North)	Hazardous Transfer HROC4A (In progress)	Magherafelt HWRC & Transfer Station Cookstown HWRC Moneymore HWRC Maghera HWRC Draperstown HWRC Castledawson HWRC Ballymacombs HWRC
Neighbourhood Operations Manager (South)	Hazardous Transfer HROC4A (In progress)	Drumcoo HWRC & Transfer Station Cookstown HWRC Moneymore HWRC Coalisland HWRC Tullyvar HWRC Fivemiletown HWRC

3.3

The NIEA guidance note - Technical Competence for Operators of Authorised Waste Facilities, states a minimum time to be spent on-site by technically competent person of 25%. The NIEA has the discretion to reduce the minimum

	<p>period of time in respect of small scale amenity sites. This would apply to the following smaller sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moneymore HWRC • Coalisland HWRC • Tullyvar HWRC • Fivemiletown HWRC • Maghera HWRC • Draperstown HWRC • Castledawson HWRC • Ballymacombs HWRC <p>3.4 These 8 sites all currently accept less than 3,000 tonnes of waste per year and the Council can demonstrate that adequate management controls can be provided through alternative means. These include regular supervision visits (Mon to Sat) by our Management and Supervisory team (4 Managers and 10 Supervisors), remote CCTV access to most of these sites, regular training with site staff, and telephone contact. Given these controls, actual on-site technical competence attendance time could be reduced to 10% or below and so this relaxation was formally requested and granted from the NIEA on 8th May 2024.</p> <p>3.5 A further letter was received from the NIEA on the 31st May 2024 notifying of the new Continued Competence (CC) system, through the Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM). This has been developed specially for Northern Ireland and is now available for online booking at Pearson Vue test centres in Belfast, Ballymena, Ballykelly and Bangor. As a result of this change a number of officers will now have to sit the continuing competence test by the 1st April 2025.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>The costs involved in the process are as follows: WAMITAB Registration - £355 Daily Assessment Rate - £550 (approx. 3 to 6 days required) Certification & Verification £310 Continued Compliance Test Fee - £184</p> <p>Human:</p> <p>Completion of the required OCC qualification takes a considerable amount of officer time to complete in addition their normal daily duties.</p>

	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>Holding the required qualifications ensures the Council meets its legal obligations and manages the risks of the waste facilities through competent supervision.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p>
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: None</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: None</p>
5.0	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
5.1	<p>Members are asked to note the content of this report.</p>
6.0	<p>Documents Attached & References</p>
6.1	<p>None</p>