



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Please use this form to submit written submissions in relation to the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill.

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Organisation: (if applicable) Northern Ireland Water Limited

Date: 11th December 2015

NI Water, together with the Northern Ireland Joint Utilities Group on Metal Theft, has been lobbying to tighten legislation for scrap metal dealers for a number of years and taking action to tackle metal theft:-

1. Additional measures put in place to prevent or deter metal theft from taking place in the first instance (such as the physical protection or securing of valuable metals);
2. Support for the NIEA and the PSNI to gather intelligence on incidents of metal theft (such as the Crimestoppers campaign and share learning on recent crimes) and to put in place a voluntary code of conduct for scrap metal dealers.

However, we believe there is a need for legislation in Northern Ireland to close down markets for illegal scrap metal thereby deterring the crime and protecting the safety of the general public.

This type of legislation has proved successful in England and Wales. Following its introduction crime figures show a marked reduction of the crime in England and Wales and an increase of the crime in Scotland. We believe this demonstrates the transitory nature of this crime.

The Scottish Parliament has since introduced similar legislation and that the Republic of Ireland has also introduced the 'Waste Management (Facility

Permit and Registration) Regulation 2014', which we were given to understand that it incorporates metal theft. We remain concerned that the lack of legislation in Northern Ireland will eventually lead to an increase in metal theft here.

NI Water is pleased to offer our support to the proposed Private Members Bill being brought forward by Roy Beggs MLA. If this Bill is approved, increased traceability will exist of those who have sold scrap metal to dealers and increased powers of access will be given to police. Scrap Metal Dealers will be required to keep records of transactions along with records of the identification of the seller. This proposed legislation will significantly help to protect the resident of Northern Ireland from perpetrators of metal theft and improve the health and safety of our colleagues.

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