

## **Open consultation: The Devolution of Landfill Tax (Wales) Order 2018**

Landfill Tax is to be devolved to Wales in April 2018. Landfill Tax will no longer apply to disposals of waste in Wales. The Welsh Government will introduce Landfill Disposals Tax which will replace Landfill Tax in Wales.

HM Revenue and Customs has published draft legislation, together with a draft explanatory memorandum, for an 4 week period of consultation which will close on 4 January 2018. Find out more in the tax information and impact note [Devolution of Landfill Tax to Wales and the 2 year transitional period for the Landfill Communities Fund](#)

The draft legislation introduces the changes needed to make sure that Landfill Tax is paid on all disposals up until 31 March 2018, even if it would normally be accounted for at a later date. This will allow LCF funds to continue being spent on projects in Wales for a 2 year transitional period following devolution.

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## **Notice: Yorkshire Water Services Limited (NPS/WR/027156): application made to impound water**

The Environment Agency consult the public on certain applications for the abstraction and impoundment of water.

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- which Environment Agency offices you can visit to see the application documents on the public register
- when you need to comment by

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## **Policy paper: Devolution of Landfill Tax to Wales and the 2 year transitional period for the Landfill Communities Fund**

Landfill Tax will be devolved to Wales from 1 April 2018 and the LCF in Wales will close. Environmental bodies may hold unspent funds from contributions by landfill operators located throughout England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Ministers decided that there should be a 2 year transition period, from 1 April 2018 until 31 March 2020, during which these unspent funds can be spent on projects located in England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

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## **News story: Results of first survey of thousands of heat network consumers**

The government has today published the findings of the [first survey of heat network consumers](#). It asked about their satisfaction with their heating system, price and transparency of billing, and customer service.

A heat network takes heat from a central source and delivers it to a number of buildings. There are around 17,000 heat networks in the UK, with some of the largest networks at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in East London, Sheffield and Nottingham.

Expansion of the heat networks market is a key part of the government's [Clean Growth Strategy](#), but strong consumer protections are needed to ensure that customers can be confident in their heating supply as the market develops.

Our survey was carried out by independent researchers between April and July 2017 and received over 5,000 responses. The survey results suggested that, while there was significant variation in the prices paid by heat network consumers, on average they were likely to pay less than non-heat network consumers.

The survey also shows that while there are issues affecting the sector that need addressing, heat network consumers were just as satisfied overall with their heating systems as non-heat network consumers.

Consumers on [Heat Trust](#) registered schemes (the voluntary industry-led consumer protection scheme) in general received more comprehensive billing information, and service interruptions tended to be rectified quicker, in line with the Heat Trust's service standards.

Claire Perry, Minister for Climate Change and Industry said:

As we set out in our Clean Growth Strategy, encouraging the uptake of heat networks is an important way to reduce carbon and cut heating bills for customers.

This survey of consumers provides an important evidence base as we seek to expand the use of heat networks from now to 2021.

The projects that the government supports through the [Heat Network Investment Project](#) must meet Heat Trust equivalent standards, comparable to those provided to customers of gas and electricity, as well as meet minimum technical standards in terms of performance and efficiency of systems. Membership of these schemes is voluntary for existing heat networks.

The government will feed in the results of the survey to the Competition and Markets Authority which announced today that it is carrying out a market study into the heat networks sector. The heat networks industry is also developing proposals to protect consumers and lower risk for investors which will be published in 2018.