



**Our ref:** RFI 6648

3 July 2014

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: CERTIFICATION OF DISPOSAL SPECIFICATIONS

Thank you for your email of Monday 9 June 14 requesting information about understanding the role that certified standards could play in responsible disposal of assets including Defra's procurement specifications used for the disposal of electrical equipment in Defra.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Most ICT services for core Defra are provided via the IBM contract which stipulates the Service Provider shall comply with the following standards and regulations:

- (a) The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive 2002/96/EC;
- (b) ISO 14001:2004 (Environmental Management Systems Standard);
- (c) Timber and Wood Derived Products Policy. UK Government timber procurement policy as specified in Timber Procurement Advice Note April 2009 (<http://www.proforest.net/cpet/files/TPAN>) under the strict proviso that the Authority shall not reject any products where ancillary components contain non-compliant wood fibre and the Service Provider shall not be liable in any way for using and / or supplying such ancillary products until the eco-declaration standards (ECMA 370 or IEEE 1680) incorporate wood fibre declarations. In such an event the Service Provider is entitled to use any stock held at that juncture until it is fully depleted; and
- (d) EU Code of Conduct on Data Centres Energy Efficiency (Nov 2008).

Furthermore where reuse is not appropriate and assets are to be disposed of, IBM wipe the data according to agreed processes and then use Northern Realisations under



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contract to handle the subsequent disposal of the equipment.

Northern Realisations ([www.realnorth.co.uk](http://www.realnorth.co.uk)) transport goods under a Waste Carriage Duty of Care Notice issued under their Waste Carriers registration number NSO/548256. Their operational site is licensed by the Environment Agency as a Waste Transfer Station – licensed for the treatment and storage of WEEE under Licence number WML/40452

In addition, they have an ISO 14000:1 compliant process agreed with the Environment Agency whereby goods can be declassified as waste upon receipt at their premises if the equipment is suitable for refurbishment and onward supply for its original purpose. For such equipment, Northern Realisations assume producer responsibility for equipment and undertake to comply with the producer take back requirements of the WEEE Directive.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

Should you be unhappy with the service that you have received you will find contact details at Annex A.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Simon Hewitt**

**Direct Line:** 0207 238 1548

## **Annex A** **Complaints**

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to David Waller, Head of Public Request fro Information Advice Service Team at Area G07, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square London, SW1P 3JR, (email: [requestforinformation@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:requestforinformation@defra.gsi.gov.uk)) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF