



# RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

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Patron HRH The Prince of Wales KG KT PC GCB

Ravi Sachdev  
Environmental Permitting Programme  
Defra  
Zone 5A, Ergon House  
Horseferry Road  
London, SW1P 2AL

Sent by email to: [eppadministrator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eppadministrator@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

23 September 2010

Dear Mr Sachdev

## **Consultation on draft Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2011**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above. The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is a membership organisation representing some 23,000 spatial planners. It exists to advance the science and art of town planning for the benefit of the public.

This response has been formed drawing together member views from the RTPI's Environmental Planning and Protection Network, which includes professionals working in both the operative and regulatory sectors.

The RTPI broadly supports the position taken on consolidating and streamlining the various aspects of environmental permitting regulations, as is currently proposed.

In particular we welcome the emphasis on "joining up" disparate permitting regimes, and seeking to iron out duplication and conflict in the system. We recognise that this programme is being undertaken with reference to Adrian Penfold's review of non-planning consent regimes, which we support. It is essential both for regulators and operators that different consenting regimes operate together in a transparent and navigable way.

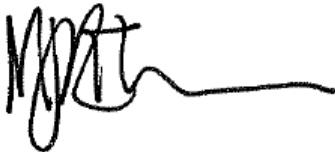
With regard to the details of this consultation, we only have further comments to make in relation to issue 5 ("Traffic impacts beyond the site of waste operations and landfills"). We support the principle of this proposal to remove responsibility for the regulation of off-site traffic movements from the Environment Agency, for the reasons stated in the consultation paper.

We do however ask Defra to note that it is possible that changes of management practice, waste acceptance criteria and/or waste volumes (that may require a variation of environmental permits) may lead to changes to traffic volumes or patterns that could have a different impact on the wider area, and yet not require a new planning permission that would allow this changes to be regulated by the local authority. Furthermore, there may be problems with sites that are operating under Certificates of Lawful Use (which have to be granted without any controlling conditions) or planning permissions granted without conditions controlling traffic movements.

We suggest a mechanism by which the EA can attach conditions to the environmental permit, where requested by the relevant local authority, subject to their enforcement by that authority or in partnership with EA.

I trust that this is of interest. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Thomson', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Matt Thomson  
**Head of Policy & Practice**