China Waste Export Ban Meeting – Draft Agenda
2.30 – 4.30pm, 13 September 2017
Room 506, Nobel House
Dial-in details: 0800 073 0694, conference code: 9902152400

1 Overview of China ban
   Options for approaching China
   Industry evidence to support any approach
4 Contingency planning – alternative routes for affected waste streams
5 Next steps

Attendees
Defra –
DIT –
EA –
The Recycling Association – Simon Ellin
Confederation of Paper Industries –
British Metals Recycling Association – Robert Fell
360 Environmental –
DS Smith –
Biffa –
ESA –
WRAP –
Veolia –
China Waste Export Ban Meeting

2.30 to 4.30, 13 September 2017

Attendees

Representatives from Defra, DIT, EA and SEPA, plus industry experts from the field of waste management (full list of names at the end)

Aim

- To share our understanding of what is covered in China’s proposals on waste exports and the potential impacts,
- To identify the actions that may be needed to clarify the situation and to mitigate the consequences

Overview of China ban

On 18 July 2017, China contacted the World Trade Organisation stating that the import of 24 types of solid waste will be banned by the end of 2017

On 25 August 2017, an internal consultation closed which would introduce changes to the standards applied to waste materials imported. Changes expected by the end of 2017. Includes a proposal to set contamination levels at 0.3%

There is uncertainty around the scope of the ban and standards due to the terminology applied, for example:

- Has the 0.3% contamination standard been adopted and how will it be applied?
- For plastic – does the ban apply to post-consumer waste only
- For paper – does the ban apply to all mixed-paper, does the ban apply to mixed paper only
- For cables – what does the 0.3% contamination standard cover

Impact on UK industry

There will be significant impacts on UK exporters of waste plastics, paper and cable, with knock on effects on the wider waste management industry, local authorities and obligated producers. These impacts are already being seen in the industry and are likely to have become significant before the end of the year

For plastics:

- Industry view is that at least 50% of the export market would be affected, either from shipments to China directly, or from indirect impacts on markets in other countries
- Tonnages involved would be in the region of 70-80K tonnes per quarter of plastic packaging waste. Figures not available for non-packaging waste plastic
- No alternative markets are available for these quantities of waste
- Clarification would be required on the scope. At this stage industry would anticipate the ban applying to post-consumer waste (not just household) but not to pellet (ie processed waste plastic). Unclear whether flake will be allowed.
- Impacts on PERN market: Prices will rise as fewer PERNs are available and targets will be unachievable
- Storage levels within the UK will become tight quickly
- Waste shipment bonds will make shipping expensive

For paper:

- Clarification would be required on the scope, as the standards refer to ‘unsorted waste paper’ rather than the systems in place to grade different types waste papers.
- UK ships around 3.7m tonnes of waste paper per annum to China, of which 1.1m tonnes is mixed paper, 2.4m tonnes was OCC
- From mid-September no mixed paper will be shipped from the UK to China
- Stockpiling will be an issued, especially as paper must be stored indoors

For cables:

- There is potential for the export of waste cables to be affected
- Figures not available for tonnages

**Actions needed to clarify the situation and to mitigate the consequences**

Given the level of uncertainty it will be critical to get a better understanding of the scope of the Chinese proposals and the likelihood of their introduction. Options for taking this forward include:

1. An approach to the WTO to see what clarifications they may be seeking from the Chinese Government. There are two avenues for this:
   - An approach via the Technical Barriers to Trade Committee - due to meet in November, this would need to be taken forward through the EU Commission,
   - An approach via the Market Access Advisory Committee – this would need to be taken forward through the EU Commission. There is scope to do this in October.

**Action: DIT**

2. An approach to the Chinese Environment Ministry via the British Embassy or a UK Trade Mission. Views to be sought from DIT and the Embassy on the best way to handle such an approach. One industry representative offered direct support

**Action: Defra to approach Embassy**

Given the volumes of waste material impacted there is an urgent need to explore alternative routes for handling this material in the short term. In particular to consider the availability of storage, alternative waste treatment and waste shipments. Further work is needed to scope out the scenarios for each impacted material and regulatory responses required, with a short term position needed urgently.
Action: Environment Agency (with Defra)

Given the likely impacts on PERNs, there is a need to scope out in more detail what may be required to address the consequences on reaching existing targets, possible regulatory signals and, in the longer term, the need to review targets.

Action: Defra

If implemented in full the Chinese proposals will result in a paradigm shift in the way waste is managed to both increase the quality of secondary raw materials but also the need to find markets for those materials, including looking at ways of boosting domestic reprocessing.

Action: Defra

Engage with other stakeholders to understand wider impacts, in particular the local authority organisations such as the LGA and LARAC.

Action: Defra

Attendees – [tc] indicates attendance via teleconference

Defra – [tc]

DIT – [tc], [tc], [tc]

EA – [tc], [tc]

SEPA – [tc]

Simon Ellin (The Recycling Association), [Confederation of Paper Industries], Robert Fell (British Metals Recycling Association), [ACP], [DS Smith], [Biffa] [tc], [ESA], [WRAP] [tc], [Veolia]
Subject: China waste export ban meeting
Location: Nobel House, Room 506: Teleconference
Start: Wed 13/09/2017 14:30
End: Wed 13/09/2017 16:30
Show Time As: Tentative
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Not yet responded
Organizer: (DEFRA)
Required Attendees: (Defra; DEFRA; Defra; DEFRA; Defra; (Trade); DEFRA; Non-Defra)

Dear colleagues,

This meeting will be an opportunity to discuss China’s proposed waste export ban and will cover:

- Options for approaching China directly or via WTO and likelihood of success of these approaches
- Industry evidence to support any approach to WTO (or others) and to inform any necessary contingency planning
- Contingency planning – in the likelihood that we need to find alternative routes for affected waste streams

Agenda and papers will follow.

Kind regards,

---

Teleconference details
Dial In Numbers
Freephone Dial-In Number:  
United Kingdom
Local Call Dial-In Number:  
United Kingdom, All Cities

(0844 number will have premium rate call charges applicable when using this number)

Conference code:
From: (DEFRA)
Sent: 05 September 2017 17:35
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Meeting on China waste export ban and new standards

Dear [Redacted],

I am writing to invite you to a meeting next week with Defra, Department for International Trade and other external stakeholders to discuss China’s proposed waste export ban. As you may know, China have proposed a ban on 24 types of solid waste and more stringent standards around levels of non-target materials to 0.3%

The meeting will be an opportunity to look at the following:

- Options for approaching China directly or via WTO and likelihood of success of these approaches
- Industry evidence to support any approach to WTO (or others) and to inform any necessary contingency planning
- Contingency planning – in the likelihood that we need to find alternative routes for affected waste streams

I will send you a meeting invite momentarily and hope that you will be able to attend, or to send someone in your stead.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

---

Policy Adviser | EU and International Waste | Environmental Quality | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Direct Line: [Redacted] | Email: [Redacted] | Address: 3rd Floor, Mallard House, Kings Pool, 3 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX
Website Twitter Facebook LinkedIn Instagram
From: (DEFRA)
Sent: 05 September 2017 17:35
To: (DEFRA)
Subject: Meeting on China waste export ban and new standards

Dear Robert,

I am writing to invite you to a meeting next week with Defra, Department for International Trade and other external stakeholders to discuss China’s proposed waste export ban. As you may know, China have proposed a ban on 24 types of solid waste and more stringent standards around levels of non-target materials to 0.3%

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• Contingency planning – in the likelihood that we need to find alternative routes for affected waste streams

I will send you a meeting invite momentarily and hope that you will be able to attend, or to send someone in your stead who can represent the BMRA.

Kind regards,

[Signature]

EU and International Waste | Environmental Quality | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Direct Line: (Contact Number) | Email: (Contact Email) | Address: 3rd Floor, Mallard House, Kings Pool, 3 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX
Website Twitter Facebook LinkedIn Instagram
From: DEFRA  
Sent: 05 September 2017 17:35  
To:  
Subject: Meeting on China waste export ban and new standards

Dear [Name],

I am writing to invite you to a meeting next week with Defra, Department for International Trade and other external stakeholders to discuss China’s proposed waste export ban. As you may know, China have proposed a ban on 24 types of solid waste and more stringent standards around levels of non-target materials to 0.3%.

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- Industry evidence to support any approach to WTO (or others) and to inform any necessary contingency planning
- Contingency planning – in the likelihood that we need to find alternative routes for affected waste streams

I will send you a meeting invite momentarily and hope that you will be able to attend and/or will be able to suggest an appropriate colleague from one of your member organisations which exports to China to attend.

Kind regards,

[Name]

Policy Adviser | EU and International Waste | Environmental Quality | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Direct Line: [Number] | Email: [Email] | Address: 3rd Floor, Mallard House, Kings Pool, 3 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX
Website Twitter Facebook LinkedIn Instagram
From: (DEFRA)  
Sent: 05 September 2017 17:35  
To:  
Subject: Meeting on China waste export ban and new standards

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- Contingency planning – in the likelihood that we need to find alternative routes for affected waste streams

I will send you a meeting invite momentarily and hope that you will be able to attend, or to send someone in your stead who can represent the Recycling Association.

Kind regards,

[Name]  
Policy Adviser | EU and International Waste | Environmental Quality | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Direct Line: [Number] | Email: [Email] | Address: 3rd Floor, Mallard House, Kings Pool, 3 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX  
Website Twitter Facebook LinkedIn Instagram
From: (DEFRA)
Sent: 05 September 2017 17:35
To: 
Subject: Meeting on China waste export ban and new standards

Dear [Name],

I am writing to invite you to a meeting next week with Defra, Department for International Trade and other external stakeholders to discuss China's proposed waste export ban. As you may know, China have proposed a ban on 24 types of solid waste and more stringent standards around levels of non-target materials to 0.3%.

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I will send you a meeting invite momentaril[y] and hope that you will be able to attend, or to send someone in your stead who can represent the Confederation of Paper Industries.

Kind regards,

Policy Adviser | EU and International Waste | Environmental Quality | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Direct Line:  | Email:  | Address: 3rd Floor, Mallard House, Kings Pool, 3 Peasholme Green, York, Y01 7PX
Website Twitter Facebook LinkedIn Instagram
Working on them now.

Hi

Sorry to be a pain, but how quickly are we likely to get the notes from Wednesday? The plastics export sector is not well represented through any one body so there are a number of people – mainly those at our ACP meeting last week – who are keen to see the detail about which I have only been able to give a summary!!

Have a lovely weekend.

Cheers
From: [Redacted]
Sent: 12 September 2017 09:27
To: [Redacted] (Defra); [Redacted] (DEFRA)
Subject: RE: Stakeholder meeting on Chinese import restrictions
Attachments: image001.png

Hi [Redacted]

Great. I understand from [Redacted] that he has now received the invitation. But his email is [Redacted]

Best regards

[Redacted]

---Original Message---
From: [Redacted] (Defra) [Redacted]
Sent: Tue 12/09/2017 07:27
To: [Redacted] (DEFRA)
Subject: RE: Stakeholder meeting on Chinese import restrictions

Thanks:

We will invite [Redacted] along. I think we already have his contact details, but if you could send his email over just in case, that would be really helpful. See you on Wednesday

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] [Redacted]
Sent: 11 September 2017 14:38
To: [Redacted] (DEFRA) <[Redacted] (Defra)
Cc: [Redacted] (Defra)
Subject: RE: Stakeholder meeting on Chinese import restrictions

Hi [Redacted]

Thank you for the invite, much appreciated. I will be attending in person.

I noticed in the list of invites that one of our members, [Redacted] from Biffa, is included. Are you interested in other industry representatives attending as well? I know that [Redacted] from Veolia is very keen to attend. Veolia is one of UK's largest exporters and [Redacted] is their main expert on waste shipments. Just let me know and I can email his details.

Best regards,

[Redacted]
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From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 September 2017 13:12
To: [REDACTED] (Defra)
Cc: [REDACTED] (Defra)
Subject: RE: Stakeholder meeting on Chinese import restrictions

Dear [REDACTED],

Yes, there is a stakeholder meeting arranged for this Wednesday, I will forward you the calendar invite with the meeting details.

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA)
Sent: 11 September 2017 09:14
To: [REDACTED] (Defra)
Cc: [REDACTED] (Defra)
Subject: Stakeholder meeting on Chinese import restrictions
Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED],

I understand that Defra has organised a stakeholder meeting on the 13th September regarding the Chinese import restrictions. From an earlier conversation with [REDACTED] in copy, I was under the impression that ESA would be invited as well. I would be very interested in attending the meeting, please let me know if that is possible.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Environmental Services Association
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]

www.esauk.org<http://www.esauk.org>
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27 September 2017 15:44

From: (DEFRA);
Sent: 27 September 2017 14:29
To: (Defra);
(DEFRA);
(Defra);
(Trade);
(Defra);
(Defra);
(Trade);
(Defra);
(Trade)

Subject: RE: China waste export ban meeting

For 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>tonnes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total plastic exports from UK</strong></td>
<td>684,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exports to China</strong></td>
<td>264,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exports to other Far East destinations (Includes India &amp; Pakistan)</strong></td>
<td>178,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exports to Europe</strong></td>
<td>240,895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hi

On plastics, 395kt (valued at £83m) was exported from the UK in the period Jan-Jul 2017. On an annualised basis this equates to plastics worth £142m based on UK Trade Info. Annualising the export data destined for China/HK during the period Jan-Jul 2017 gives 332kt and a value of £67Mt. But of course, not all of this is plastic packaging. Do we know how much plastic packaging is exported to China/HK?

Best,
Dear [Name],

As discussed on the phone, SEPA is keen to be involved in these discussions at the earliest stage. Please add me as the SEPA representative at the moment for the meeting this afternoon.

You may also want to consider the other DAs in Northern Ireland and Wales, their contact details are: [Contact Details]

Kind regards,

[Name]
Producer Compliance and Waste Shipment Unit
Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Tel: [Phone Number]
Hi [Name],

If the industry can help provide any of the additional information you are looking for, please let us know. Given that time is short and it will probably take a while to arrange meetings with the Chinese we would certainly welcome a decision relatively soon.

It could be good to know that mainstream media is now asking questions so unless Defra has already provided comments you are likely to be asked what the Government is doing to address the issue.

Best regards,

[Name]

Environmental Services Association
Direct Dial: [Contact Number]

www.esauk.org

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Sorry for the slow response. We’ve been in touch with post who are looking for more information before taking any decisions – I will let you know when I hear more. attended the Market Access Advisory Council yesterday with the intention to raise the issue in AOB. Will hopefully get an update from her soon.

Best,

Policy Adviser | EU and International Waste | EQ

From:  
Sent: 20 September 2017 13:56  
To: (DEFRA)  
Subject: RE: China waste export ban meeting

Hi

Thank you for taking on board our comments. What is the latest on the possible trade mission? We agree with the Recycling Association that this would be worthwhile. As was mentioned at the meeting, from Veolia will be in China in October anyway and has offered to extend his stay to take part in the trade mission.

Best regards,


Environmental Services Association
Direct Dial:
www.esauk.org

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From:  
Sent: 20 September 2017 13:49  
To:  
Subject: RE: China waste export ban meeting
Hi all,

Please see the attached updated meeting note. Thanks all for comments and for your contributions at the meeting, they were very helpful. We will take forward the actions as listed and will keep you updated on progress.

Best,

From: Simon Ellin
Sent: 20 September 2017 12:08
To: (DEFRA); (Defra); (Defra); (Defra); (DEFRA); (Defra); (Non-Defra);
(Trade); (Trade); (Trade); (Trade)
Subject: RE: China waste export ban meeting

Hi

Thank you again for hosting the meeting last week – Jacob and Trevor have highlighted some proposed minor changes which I concur with and have nothing further to add on the minutes themselves.

I would however like to add weight to the urgency required here as Jacob has highlighted in his note about short-term measures. I believe that direct contact with China is absolutely imperative at the earliest possible opportunity. As we stand, we still don’t have definitive guidance from China and we should take this as an opportunity to make representation - the pertinent issues were raised at the meeting last week and you also have the letters I sent to you from BIR and EuRIC along with our own representations to CCIC which expand on these areas. I simply cannot stress enough the impact this will have on the UK industry supply chain if these changes are brought in, in their current form. Again, we would like to offer our assistance if required to get in front of the right people in China which would complement the other offer received.

You may already be aware, but China situation is not on the agenda at the MAAC committee in Brussels tomorrow and I am told via EuRIC that the earliest possible opportunity to do so is the meeting on 20th October which I intend to attend. Again I am afraid, the clock is ticking.

We are always here to assist in anyway please keep us updated.

Thank you and Kind Regards

The Recycling Association/IWPP Ltd/UKSSA

Heritage House
Vicar Lane
Daventry
NN11 4GD

Tel:
Mob:
Hi

Thank you for organising the meeting last week. I’ve included a few comments in tracked changes, I thought that would be easier. Even if the comments are not included in the final document it would be good if they are reflected in Defra’s and the EA’s thinking. In addition to these, I seem to remember there was an action for Defra to discuss the issue with other stakeholders, in particular the local authority organisations such as the LGA and LARAC. I have attended a few local authority events in the last week and there is very little understanding of the Chinese restrictions.

I also have a question, how much of the exported plastics is commercial and industrial? This will still have an impact on the PRNs/PERNs but less on local authorities and therefore relevant when discussing the implications for them. Hearing that 50% of capacity is lost could impact on their future waste strategies, some of which are considered at the moment.

Lastly, I want to stress the urgency in looking at the storage issue and whether a temporary regulatory position can be provided in the short term.

Many thanks,

[Signature]

Environmental Services Association
Hi,

Sorry, one other point is that the status of washed plastic flake is unclear. I’m hearing of it being stopped for import but I’m not clear whether this relates to restrictions on 2017 import licences or is due to it being banned going forward. It would be very useful to have clarification on this.

Best regards,

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Hi,

Thanks for raising this point and clarifying the discrepancy. I will update the text to the following:

- The UK ships around 3.7m tonnes of waste paper per annum to China of which 1.1m tonnes is mixed paper
Best,

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 19 September 2017 10:25
To: [Redacted]
(Defra); [Redacted]@sepa.org.uk; [Redacted] <Trade@sepa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: China waste export ban meeting

Hi,

According to CPI and HMRC data, in 2016 UK shipped a total of 3.689 mio tonnes of Paper for Recycling to China.

Of this, 1.076 mio tonnes was mixed papers. The majority of the remainder (2.437 mio tonnes) was OCC (Cardboard). The balance was made up from other grades (Woodfree = 26.6 mio tonnes, News & Pams = 149.7 mio tonnes).

I hope this helps

Kind regards

Simon

Simon Weston
Director of Raw Materials
Mobile: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]
Web: www.paper.org.uk

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From: [Redacted]
Sent: 19 September 2017 10:15
To: [Redacted] (Defra) <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@defra.gov.uk; [Redacted]@defra.gov.uk; [Redacted]@defra.gov.uk
(Defra) <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
(Defra) <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
(Defra) <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk; [Redacted]@defra.gov.uk; [Redacted]@defra.gov.uk
(Non-Defra) [Redacted]@defra.gov.uk; [Redacted]@defra.gov.uk
(Defra) <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: China waste export ban meeting

Hi

One main point from me. You refer to the UK shipping 1.7M tonnes of recovered fibre to China. I believe the figure is at least double that.

Best regards

[Signature]

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From: [Redacted] (DEFRA)
Sent: 19 September 2017 09:08
To: [Redacted] (Defra); [Redacted] (DEFRA); [Redacted] (Defra); [Redacted] (DEFRA)
[Redacted] (Defra); [Redacted] (Non-Defra); [Redacted] (Trade); [Redacted] (Trade) [Redacted] (Defra);
[Redacted] (Trade)

Subject: China waste export ban meeting

Dear all,

Please see the attached meeting note of last week’s meeting. Please let me know if you have any comments.

Best,

[Signature]

[Redacted] Policy Adviser | EU and International Waste | Environmental Quality | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Direct Line [Redacted] | Email: [Redacted] | Address: 3rd Floor, Mallard House, Kings Pool, 3 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX
Website  Twitter  Facebook  LinkedIn  Instagram

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Sorry, I know it's a bit picky, but I think it would be useful for people to know who was there and who was on the end of a phone?

Hi,

You have a keen eye! Thanks for that – I will update both.

Best,

Thanks, Spelling of Veolia needs correcting (next to in Attendees). And could you put me down as ACP, not 360 Environmental.

Cheers
From: (DEFFRA) 
Sent: 19 September 2017 09:08
To: [Emails redacted]
Subject: China waste export ban meeting

Dear all,

Please see the attached meeting note of last week's meeting. Please let me know if you have any comments.

Best,

Policy Adviser | EU and International Waste | Environmental Quality | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Direct Line: [Phone number] Email: [Email address] Address: 3rd Floor, Mallard House, Kings Pool, 3 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX
Website Twitter Facebook LinkedIn Instagram

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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Hi

I think the significance is that the additional restrictions placed on contamination could affect the remainder of exported material and not just mixed papers.

Interesting times!

Regards

Simon

Simon Weston
Director of Raw Materials
Mobile: [Phone number]
Email: [Email address]
Web: www.paper.org.uk

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Hi Simon,

271
Thanks for raising this point and clarifying the discrepancy. I will update the text to the following:

- The UK ships around 3.7m tonnes of waste paper per annum to China of which 1.1m tonnes is mixed paper

Best,

Simon Weston

From: Simon Weston [redacted]
Sent: 19 September 2017 10:25
To: [redacted]
(Defra); [redacted] (Defra); [redacted] (DEFRA); [redacted]; [redacted] (DEFRA); [redacted]; [redacted] (Defra); [redacted] (Non-Defra); [redacted] (Trade); [redacted] (Trade); [redacted] (Defra); [redacted] (Trade)
Subject: RE: China waste export ban meeting

Hi [redacted]

According to CPI and HMRC data, in 2016 UK shipped a total of 3.689 mio tonnes of Paper for Recycling to China.

Of this, 1.076 mio tonnes was mixed papers. The majority of the remainder (2.437 mio tonnes) was OCC (Cardboard). The balance was made up from other grades (Woodfree = 26.6 mio tonnes, News & Pams = 149.7 mio tonnes).

I hope this helps

Kind regards

Simon

Simon Weston
Director of Raw Materials
Mobile: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]
Web: www.paper.org.uk

Paper – the sustainable, renewable choice

If you print this email, please recycle it.
Hi

One main point from me. You refer to the UK shipping 1.7M tonnes of recovered fibre to China. I believe the figure is at least double that.

Best regards

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From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA)
Sent: 19 September 2017 09:08
To: [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Non-Defra); [REDACTED] (Trade); [REDACTED] (Trade); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Trade)

Subject: China waste export ban meeting

Dear all,

Please see the attached meeting note of last week's meeting. Please let me know if you have any comments.

Best,

[REDACTED]

Policy Adviser | EU and International Waste | Environmental Quality | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Direct Line: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] | Address: 3rd Floor, Mallard House, Kings Pool, 3 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX
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