Supplementary Written Submission from SEPA received 16 February 2017 following evidence session 7 February 2017

At the Committee meeting on 7 February I offered to provide further details of the business inspections that SEPA undertook in collaboration with local authorities.

Of the 7,000 business inspections, 62% of the businesses were fully compliant on the day of the inspection. This means they both had recycling services and were using them correctly on the day of the inspection. It is not possible to say how consistent the businesses are in the use of those systems but as the inspections were unannounced we are reasonably confident that the results are broadly representative of day-to-day practice in those businesses.

A further 20% of businesses were making some efforts to comply with the recycling requirements. Each individual case within that 20% may be slightly different. For example, some businesses we visited did not think they had any metal to recycle but the inspections revealed that they occasionally produced tin can waste, e.g. coffee tins. In such cases we advised that they needed to speak their service provider about whether they required an additional service or whether they could recycle the tin cans using their existing service.

Some businesses we visited had a full suite of recycling services but were not using them appropriately; for example there was cross-contamination of recycling waste streams. In those cases we explored the reasons and provided advice on how to improve practice.

Jo Green
Chief Officer Performance and Innovation
16 February 2017