# Joint Statement
# From the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales
29th September 2014

**Headlines**

- **The new UK IT system for WEEE producer responsibility will be delayed and will now be introduced for the 2016 compliance year.**

- **The EA, SEPA, NRW and NIEA remains committed to delivering new efficient "digital by default" services for Producer Responsibility regimes and International Waste Shipments regimes.**

**Key message**

The Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Natural Resources Wales and Northern Ireland Environment Agency are disappointed to announce that there will be a delay to the delivery of the new UK wide on-line IT system for managing producer responsibility obligations for Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE).

The PRSD project is an ambitious project to bring together an integrated IT system to meet the requirements for 4 regulatory regimes – Packaging, WEEE, Batteries and International Waste Shipments across the UK. We had planned to go live with the first phase of the project in October 2014 which would have delivered functionality for the WEEE regulatory system to support the 2015 producer registration and treatment operator approvals.

During the early stages of the development a number of challenges emerged that meant we would have had to compromise on the quality/functionality of the system and not delivered the best solution for our customers. We are very clear in our objective of developing a system that meets both customers and our own requirements. Thus the quality of the IT system is a priority for us. It's been a difficult decision to take to delay the project, but we believe it's the right one to ensure we get the best possible system in place.

**Background**

The PRSD project aims to transform and consolidate a number of legacy systems used for the Producer Responsibility regimes (WEEE, Batteries, and Packaging) and International Waste Shipments into a one stop service on GOV.UK. There is significant scope for modernising and improving the systems that support WEEE, Batteries and International Waste Shipments. These systems currently have very limited on-line capability resulting in inefficiencies for both the regulatory Agencies and our customers.

Around 7 years ago the National Packaging Waste Database (NPWD) was established, with significant financial and technical support from industry. This system has been very successful and provided a significant step forward for managing the packaging regime both from a customers and regulators perspective. Throughout

the planning stage for the development of PRSD a key feature has always been to build on the successes of NPWD. To achieve this intention was to re-use as much of NPWD as possible.

However since the project brief was first set out some 15 months ago we have moved forward considerably in our thinking on IT strategy and we are now much more actively exploring the use of open source software, delivering services compliant with the GDS Service Manual and the adoption of Service Management and Agile methodologies. The project has tried to integrate the latest best practice from Service Management, Agile development and the GDS Service Manual into the ways of working for the project. This is a fast moving area and the regulatory Agencies and our suppliers are continuing to learn and gain understanding of the cultural changes needed to work in this way. For example it has now become apparent that a software choice made earlier this year would result in higher than anticipated levels of complexity and cost to allow integration with the GDS tool kit and this software choice will now be revisited.

The combination of these factors has caused some delays and means that we feel that our current approach will not provide the best possible service for our customers. We are therefore intentionally creating a delay in the development to enable us to review the approach and technology options to ensure that the investment we are making will deliver the best possible service. We will now be reviewing the technology choices that we made to ensure that we are using the best possible approach that will minimise development costs and ensure that we have a flexible IT solution that can be quickly and cheaply improved in response to customer feedback and any future regulatory changes.