



## Minutes of Meeting following AGM

13 July 2022

Present:

Andrew Selous MP, Co-chair	Phil Davies, Environment Agency
Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Co-chair	Rachael Oakley, SmartWater
Lord Birt, Vice-chair	Tom Grundey, West Mercia Police
The Earl of Clancarty, Vice-chair	Robin Edwards, National Infrastructure Crime Reduction Partnership (NICRP)
Lord Chartres, Vice-chair	Alex Green, Home Office
Cameron Leitch, Secretariat, British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA)	David Knight, Church of England
Howard Bluck, BMRA <i>on behalf of Antonia Grey</i>	Richie Iwanoff, British Telecommunications
Susie Burrage, Recycled Products/BMRA President	

### 1. Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Antonia Grey.

### 2. Business of the Group:

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM in 2021  
Minutes approved.
- b. Review of Metal Theft Framework for data gathering and associated Road Map Group conversation.

Lord Birt began by recounting his own chastening process of dealing with a local county police force to access data on metal theft. He highlighted that there were several issues around data collection, not the least of which was the absence of records of the metal or quantity of value of these thefts. He also reported that he secured a meeting with the compliance team at the local authority, but that they had told him there was no capacity to be proactive in enforcing metal crime combatting.

Richie Iwanoff (RI) pointed out that there was a growing collaborative effort between the NICRP, Acquisitive Crime Team and Joint Unit for Waste Crime to facilitate intelligence sharing and hold the police force to account in respect of their data collection. RI wanted to stress that there are considerable efforts being made to tackle this issue and they were targeting Police and Crime Commissioners to elevate the salience and trajectory of their work.

Robin Edwards reported that he believed the issue around enforcement was the result of a lack of training. Under his assumptions around two percent of police officers will have heard of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act (2013) and what powers it sets out.

Andrew Selous MP spoke on the need to develop an action plan and was told by Alex Green that the Home Office were waiting for this APPG to produce one.

Susie Burrage described her experience as a scrap metal dealer in respect of the enforcement of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act (2013), saying that the local authority tends to visit only when the licence is up for renewal once every three years.

Phil Davies (PD) also reported that there had been operations by the police force to tackle metal theft which by most measurements were successful. In the past 18 months, the police force had conducted three weeks of intensification across 45 partner agencies visiting hundreds of yards. PD also noted that illustrating the prevalence of metal theft alone was not the best way to attract the attention of the police force and any campaign would be better suited to coupling metal thefts with the perpetrators which are believed to be for the most part organised crime groups.

Richie Iwanoff reported that the police force had received 1.3 million of funding over three years to go after assets in the scrap dealing industry and are recruiting financial investigators and analysts.

Lord Birt then asked if it would be possible for the police force to present to the APPG on their most recent data collection on metal crime, to which Tom Grundy and Rachael Oakley agreed.

**Action:** Tom Grundy and Rachael Oakley to present police force data to the APPG at the next meeting.

c. Agree evidence sessions

It was agreed by the APPG that at least three evidence sessions would take place with parliamentarians present at each session. It was also agreed that participants would span the following groups/organisations: victims of crime, NPCC, Local Government Association/Authorities, Home Office, Office of National Statistics, Church of England, Environment Agency and metal recyclers.

d. Set timelines for evidence sessions

It was agreed the first evidence sessions would take place in September: dates will be confirmed as soon as possible.

e. Other business

AD noted that the APPG should welcome Public Policy Exchange's upcoming event on tackling metal theft. Both AD and Lord Faulkner confirmed they would be attending that event.

*Date of next meeting: Autumn TBC*