

Questions/Views expressed in the Eunomia/DEFRA webinar on 17 August 2023

[Note: this transcript may not be fully perfect owing to the limitations of the DEFRA chat system]

[11:32] Mike Swain

Good Morning - will this webinar be recorded for viewing later ?

[11:33] Lorna Hegenbarth

ive no sound?

[11:33] Davina Miller

Morning all - will the slides also be provided afterwards as well?

[11:33] Lorna Hegenbarth

sorted thank you

like 1

[11:35] Butts, Alison

To subscribe to the Resources and Waste Newsletter, please click here.

like 1

Get the latest news and updates from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the Resources & Waste Reforms

[11:36] Forster, Timothy

Was today's webinar advertised in the newsletter? It wasn't shared with local authority networks until I passed on the link yesterday, so many LA reps may have missed the opportunity to attend

[11:39] Frederic Chapuis

I have nothing on the screen. Can you share. Thank you

[11:39] Callan, Gareth {PEP}

So we should accrue for costs from Jan '25 or April '25?

[11:39] Boorman, Kayti

We do have a little delay in the slides moving but they are on screen now - we will work on the tech and thank you for your patience

[11:40] Blomefield, William

When will we get the cost per material for phase 1 EPR? Pre-ecomodulation?

[11:43] Simon Stringer

Why are we still talking about Scotland's DRS being different from the rest of the UK?

like 1

[11:44] Butts, Alison

Forster, Timothy

Was today's webinar advertised in the newsletter? It wasn't shared with local authority networks until I passed on the link yesterday, so many LA reps may have missed the opportunity to attend

Hi Timothy, it was included in this newsletter:

<https://defracollectionandpackagingreform.cmail19.com/t/t-e-zhudyhl-jdagdjhj-a/> (sent on 10 August) to all our local authority subscribers. If you didn't receive our newsletter, please do register click here. Thank you

[11:45] Robbie Humphrey
where is the information on base fees?

[11:45] Lorna Hegenbarth
ive not seen any base fees??
like 1

[11:46] Sarah Peake
Base fees have been published???? Where & when???
like 3

[11:46] COLOMBO Barbara
-Has the complexity of global businesses taken into account when it comes to labelling? Most of our products are shared amongst multiple countries who do not have the same labelling system. To add the labelling on pack, we will have to look at local re-stickering in the UK, which means huge costs and additional waste production. What is the Government view on this?

-Why aren't we considering digital labelling?
like 8

[11:46] Peter Howard
Neither have I. Please can you tell us where this has been published?

[11:46] Simon Stringer
You mentioned that you were a new member to the Scheme Administrator team. Can you expand on that, and how the team and what its remit is and how it has been developed so far?
like 3

[11:46] Mark Browne
where are the base fees?
like 3

[11:47] Jones, Nicola
Who are the project teams working closely with please? would be great to offer an insight from our industry.
like 3

[11:48] Lee Wills
Why will RAM assessment not follow OPRL guidelines?
like 1

[11:48] Marie McDonald
What about Veterinary Medicines if the manufacturer needs to add the recyclability to their packaging they would need to submit variations of this to the VMD. This could cause delays in animal medicines being available causing all kinds of problems

[11:48] Callan, Gareth {PEP}
Is that a commitment that you will consult on the RAM, or are you considering consulting with producers?
like 1

[11:48] Denise Mathieson
OPRL give industry 2 years to apply a change of label - will you follow suit?
like 2 heart 1

[11:48] Frankel, Lucy

Can you take into consideration packaging items which do have a B2B recycling infrastructure, but not in widespread household collections - these items are both recyclable and not recyclable depending where they end up.

like 6

[11:55] Jones, Nicola

Adrian Hawkes

Just to confirm, presumably if some fees are modulated up then others will be modulated down as otherwise the total payable would increase?

Great point Adrian!

[11:55] Simon Stringer

Can we amend data submissions that will reflect on a change in fees charged? Will this be for just the current reporting period or historic ones as well?

[11:55] Callan, Gareth {PEP}

How do we know that LA Disposal costs are not a blank cheque? - i.e. what's the plan to ensure that high recycling targets are achieved?

like 2

[11:56] Jason (Guest)

What do you mean by a switch to heavier materials is a potential perverse outcome. Materials have different densities and therefore weights?

[11:56] Leach, Barbara

Sarah Peake

Changes to labels can take a long time to introduce (Where will they be published when the time happens?

That's yet to be decided, but they will definitely be shared on the various engagement forums that we run, in particular the Business Readiness Forum and in the newsletter. We will make sure no one misses them by signposting them as widely as we can.

[11:57] Sarah Peake

Please can you explain more about how the different nations will be involved in setting the fees/modulation? Will this be based on the nation data?

[11:58] David Daw

Recyclability is not all about material type size contents etc can impact on this. Will this be taken into account?

like 4

[11:58] Martin Hyde

The concept of modulated fees proposed with the aim of encouraging producers to "use more recyclable materials" surely only works if materials are modulated against each other rather than only within each material category. What you are proposing here potentially encourages people to "use more recyclable sub-materials" instead

like 4

[11:59] Jones, Nicola

jason (Guest)

what do you mean by a switch to heavier materials is a potential perverse outcome. Materials have different densities and therefore weights?

I would like clarification on this too please

like 2

[11:59] Bull, James

Is there clarity on the modulation fee - 1 fee for the UK or segmented by nation?

like 2

[11:59] Skye Oudemans

David Daw (External)

Recyclability is not all about material type size contents etc can impact on this. Will this be taken into account?

Need to consider the packaging item

[11:59] Lisbeth Baxter

where does reuseable packaging fit?

like 2

[12:00] Noleen Willis

and compostable?

[12:00] Lorna Hegenbarth

Can I ask you to repeat the points of the Kantar work,

like 1

[12:00] Denise Mathieson

where does closed loop packaging sit?

like 2

[12:02] Sarah Peake

Rai, Taran

Is the plan for modulated fees to replace the PRN system or will there be a further reform here?

My understanding was that the modulated fees are only going to be for the Waste Management fee which is only applied to primary and shipment packaging that will end up in household waste stream#

like 1

[12:02] Callan, Gareth {PEP}

Nothing on this list about creation of end markets for materials not commonly recycled today.....

like 1

[12:02] Emilia Matchett

Is the PRN system going to be replaced by modulated fees? More details on the plan for PRNs future would be helpful.

like 3

[12:03] Lorna Hegenbarth

Can you explain the PRN time line, given the delay

like 1

[12:03] Jim Fox

Will the effectiveness & efficiencies of the different Local Authorities be published?

like 4

[12:03] Sarah Peake

Contamination of packaging by packaging contents also need to be considered

like 2

[12:04] jason (Guest)

How often will the base fee be reviewed? How often with the RAM be re-applied? To award innovation, eg improved recycling rates and package lightweighting ? what are the resources available to conduct re-assessments?

[12:04] Danish Azri

Some B2B packaging especially in the chemical industry need to go through UN approval, thus increasing the cost massively, is this taken into consideration as we move forward. especially as all primary and shipment packaging are under Household so almost all in the industry will go through an increase

like 1

[12:04] Simon Stringer

Are you planning to include carbon, water, modern slavery, air/sea/road miles etc etc into the RAM/interim assessment?

like 3 surprised 1

[12:05] Frankel, Lucy

Will the typical 'used' state of the packaging be taken into consideration for recyclability assessment as opposed to when they are 'clean and unused'? For example, foodservice disposables which would generally have food contamination, creating challenges in mechanical recycling.

like 2

[12:05] Lisbeth Baxter

Was this the simplest way to incentivise producers to change to more sustainable packaging and provide funds to local authorities for collecting the material?

like 1 laugh 1

[12:05] Andrew Knight

How will local authorities be incentivised to improve the infrastructure that could in theory improve recyclability? Especially before consistent collections come in.

like 5

will we have only 1 logo (either Recycle or... by COLOMBO Barbara

COLOMBO Barbara

12:07

will we have only 1 logo (either Recycle or Not Recycle) for all products? e.g. also those that have got multiple different components inside which have got different degrees of recyclability? How do we manage this?

3 Like reactions.

DICK SEARLE

12:08

Will Eunomia start by talking to all the material sector TAs who have already carried out a huge amount of work in this space?

10 Like reactions.

10

1 Heart reaction.

Bull, James

12:09

Any consideration for collection points - or just kerbside consideration for modulation?

3 Like reactions.

Tonkin, David / MD_GRD-PK

12:09

Q. Will there be any incentive or improved definition which encourages recycling back in to original use? or is the intention to only incentivise a downcycling economy?

2 Like reactions.

2

12:09

will any new labelling have some synergy in operability with EO schemes to avoid duplication, where at all possible?

1 Like reaction.

Blomefield, William

12:10

If we have one recyclability assessment that works across the UK nations, does that imply the consistent collections approach will also have to be aligned across the UK? And when will we see the output on consistency of collections which is so integral to EPR?

4 Like reactions.

Lisbeth Baxter

12:10

Will the assessment work on a global basis?

2 Like reactions.

2

Peter Howard

12:10

Can we not be clearer on timings - The British winter, spring, summer etc can mean a lot of things!

Adrian Hawkes

12:11

Surely the RAM should have a more sophisticated assessment than simply whether a material is technically capable of being recycled? In theory almost everything is technically recyclable but could be completely uneconomic or unsustainable to do so. Suggest also include criteria such as whether material collection and reprocessing capacity exists at scale, life cycle benefits of doing so, economics, etc, etc.

COLOMBO Barbara

17/08/2023 12:07

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This may help, except it will say 'Do Not Recycle'

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11 Like reactions.

1 Heart reaction.

Lorna Hegenbarth (Guest)

17/08/2023 12:00

Can I ask you to repeat the points of the Kantar work,

Yes. these are: 1. What are the drivers of producer packaging-design decisions? How do these drivers interact? 2. What has been the scale and nature of packaging change in response to pEPR fee modulation in other markets where it has been implemented? 3. Based on pEPR fee modulation in other contexts and stakeholder views, what might we expect the impact of fee modulation to be in the UK?

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[12:12] Di Fonzo, Martina

Lorna Hegenbarth (Guest)

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[12:12] COLOMBO Barbara

thanks Kevin Loughton, my understanding was that we would not label at component level anymore, as we might do today voluntarily with OPRL, but only 1 x Pack. If I am wrong, that is much easier!

[12:12] Simon Stringer

Are you viewing compliance schemes as trade associations?

[12:16] Mark Browne

will the physical attendance workshops also allow dial in observation for those not able to take part due to limited registrations?

like 7

[12:16] Arsand, Marcel

is DEFRA aware that some materials sectors have not been represented in those interviews with Kantar?

like 2

[12:17] Dimitra Rappou

When do you intend to confirm dates and send invites to those attending? September and October is not that far away and we need sufficient notice to be able to be there.

like 2

[12:18] Mark Browne

Dimitra Rappou (External)

When do you intend to confirm dates and send invites to those attending? September and October is not that far away and we need sufficient notice to be able to be there.

doesn't seem like they even have a venue yet "central london" - they best book something soon

[12:19] Jon Hastings

Could you just clarify local authority payment dates? Is it some point in 25-26 for a first basic payment, and then 26-27 for the first that take modulation into account?

[12:19] jason (Guest)

who decides who is a consulted stakeholder at the participatory design stage please?- this is a critical part to get right and needs to be well thought out to avoid any skewing to specific interests at the design stage

[12:19] Jon Hastings

Will the modulation of fees eventually take into account fossil content, in relation to the increased costs of EfW coming through the Emissions Trading Scheme? If local authorities do not have the powers to compel residents to recycle (which the Government refuses to consider restoring, despite the obvious benefits it would bring to both producers and councils), we will have to accept a quantity being disposed of as residual waste even in high performing areas (particularly from flats).

like 3

[12:20] Robbie Humphrey

If base fees were meant to be published in May, is there difference in opinion on the level of each fee?

like 1

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like 3

[12:20] Robbie Humphrey

If base fees were meant to be published in May, is there difference in opinion on the level of each fee?

like 1

[12:22] Simon Stringer

What happens if only 1/2 the expected obligation/tonnage is reported? Will producers get a fee that is doubled?

like 1

[12:22] Angus Murdoch

Because of concerns around plastics we've seen some retailers substitute e.g. to paper and card, but this is then contaminated in use. We've seen it in things like sandwich boxes and takeaway pizza boxes for years. Recently we've seen Pot Noodle. MRFs don't usually recycle these, as they're not really recyclable in practice. Is there any way you can take this into account? I appreciate it is quite difficult!

like 1

[12:22] Anna Low

are they quarterly payments?

Robert Fell (MPMA) (Guest)

12:23

Very unhappy about the comment about weight. this sounds like a rerun of Courtaulds II when a target of "reduce the weight of packaging to landfill" got truncated to reduce the weight of packaging. Result: recyclable packaging was substituted out for lighter but un-recyclable packaging. This does not sound like a good EPR outcome to me.

2 Like reactions.

Lorna Hegenbarth (Guest)

12:23

I thought you said the first invoice will be 2026?

Ellwood, Rosie

12:23

Is there any grasp of likely/allowable deviation between illustrative and actual fees? We need to account and accrue with reasonable accuracy .. are businesses being consulted on what is reasonable deviation and any limit fees cannot deviate beyond?

1 Like reaction.

Butts, Alison (Guest)

12:23

Expression of Interest Form – Recyclability Assessment Methodology and early years of Modulated Fees. To express an interest and volunteer to work with us on these two projects, please click here.

A place for organisations to nominate up to three people to take part in participatory design for RAM and Modulated Fees

defragroup.eu.qualtrics.com

1 Like reaction.

1

George Atkinson

12:24

Is our reading of the draft EPR SI correct - that the EPR fees payable by online marketplaces for packaging they facilitate coming onto the UK market from non-UK businesses won't be subject to eco-modulation?

1 Like reaction.

Arsand, Marcel

12:25

Unknown User

17/08/2023 12:23

Please could this be clarified?

fully recyclable packaging got replaced by non recyclable ones in the name of "resource efficiency"

1 Like reaction.

Jon Hastings

12:25

If the packaging is so small that you cannot fit on labels, it will probably fall out of the sorting process before it gets separated for recycling tbh.

Adrian Hawkes

12:25

Consistent collections is clearly a key input to this project and is currently a major gap in the virtuous circle presented earlier. When will the plan be published please?

7 Like reactions.

3 Heart reactions.

Robbie Humphrey

12:26

If we change our stoppers to a recyclable material - which still won't be recycled due to being too small - will we pay less fees anyway?

1 Like reaction.

JOHN SWEENEY

12:26

Will brands and retailers hard to recycle take back schemes be taken into account with both RAM and modulated fees.

1 Like reaction.

Arsand, Marcel

17/08/2023 12:25

fully recyclable packaging got replaced by non recyclable ones in the name of "resource efficiency"

Thanks Marcel, I was asking for the further clarification about the 'heavier packaging' statement.

Perhaps I should have replied to the original

Robert Fell (MPMA) (Guest)

12:31

What perverse comment about weight, where are the highest recycling rates!

3 Like reactions.

3

Mark Browne

17/08/2023 12:29

how will packaging items that have been engineered to enable recycling be classified, even if the LA's arent currently kerbside collecting them. I am of course talking about flexible packaging that has been engineered to be mono material but still will remain technically not recyclable based on a k... Some time ago there was discussion about short term 'penalties' on these materials to fund necessary investment in infrastructure .. not sure what thinking now is .. feel perverse to penalise producers who have already 'played their part' and will be paying anyway higher fees for CEFLEX-compliant recyclable flexibles

Elizabeth QUINNEY

12:32

How aligned is the Recycling labelling and recycling assessments with e.g. Europe? Are there plans to consider their policies? Is there a concern that many brands produce for international markets so labels such as "Do Not Recycle" may mean that additional resources will be used to produce labels to be specifically applied for the UK market? Is it better to change to an icon?

2 Like reactions.

Lorna Hegenbarth (Guest)

12:33

Please can you clarify the weight context of modulation?

Unknown User

12:33

Having being involved in many communications campaigns over the years, when do you envisage rolling out the nation wide campaign funded by the EPR fees?

Jon Hastings

12:34

Probably not a question to answer now, but what is DEFRA doing to deal with infrastructure gaps which neither the producer sector nor local government can resolve on their own? Flexible packaging sorting being one example, but re-processing capacity is another.

3 Like reactions.

3

12:34

Paul Vanston

I've held my tongue long enough: I'm not at all persuaded these reforms as laid out will guarantee high environmental performance (recycling rates), or value for money to producers/citizens.

We must, surely, use the next year to use the projects & fora (including with Eunomia, Kantar, DEFRA etc) to REALLY get these reforms shipshape.

That must include getting the Consistency packaging policies proposals published pronto.

26 Like reactions.

Frankel, Lucy

12:35

Composting is defined as a form of recycling within the draft EPR regs - so composting compostable packaging would count

Robert Fell (MPMA) (Guest)

12:35

If DEFRA want to hit their 76% in 2030 then they will need the "heavier" materials such as metal and glass to do well given their higher recycling rates, infrastructure and established markets already in place. Otherwise the 76% will not be attainable.

3 Like reactions.

Frankel, Lucy

12:36

If LCAs are to be a factor in RAM, please be aware that there are many contradictory LCAs, a variety of methodologies, and they are very costly to businesses and complex to have per SKU. University of Sheffield (Rachel Rothman) has been reviewing LCA methodology for compostable materials and seen massive variation.

4 Like reactions.

Chadha Awantika

12:37

Can you please clarify what's considered as a fibre based composite?

1 Like reaction.

Frankel, Lucy

12:35

Composting is defined as a form of recycling within the draft EPR regs - so composting compostable packaging would count

If DEFRA want to hit their 76% in 2030 then... by Robert Fell (MPMA) (Guest)

Robert Fell (MPMA) (Guest)

12:35

If DEFRA want to hit their 76% in 2030 then they will need the "heavier" materials such as metal and glass to do well given their higher recycling rates, infrastructure and established markets already in place. Otherwise the 76% will not be attainable.

3 Like reactions.

3

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4 Like reactions.

Elizabeth QUINNEY

17/08/2023 12:32

How aligned is the Recycling labelling and recycling assessments with e.g. Europe? Are there plans to consider their policies? Is there a concern that many brands produce for international markets so labels such as "Do Not Recycle" may mean that additional resources will be used to produce labels... Exactly! we complained when e.g. France implemented the Triman logo but now the UK is doing the same...

Sarah Peake

12:41

Please can you include the explanation of how the base fees rates will be calculated & recalculated in your newsletter

1 Like reaction.

It sounds to me that the modulated fee structure will be even more opaque than the PRN one!

Simon Stringer (Guest)

12:42

It sounds to me that the modulated fee structure will be even more opaque than the PRN one!

2 Like reactions.

2

Simon Stringer (Guest)

12:42

Possibly as variable and volatile

1 Like reaction.

DICK SEARLE

12:42

We really need more feedback on the suggestion that packaging reduction should be measured by weight alone

jason (Guest)

12:42

so base fee doesn't really reward innovation of the material if I understood the answer correctly. This is an oversight I think.

Begin Reference, If LCAs are to be a factor... by Robert Fell (MPMA) (Guest)

Robert Fell (MPMA) (Guest)

12:42

[12:44] Frankel, Lucy

The European Commission is taking France to court over the Triman recycling labelling - as it is a barrier to free trade. The UK's labelling plans create similar complexities and costs for businesses serving multiple markets. EU Commission launches an infringement procedure against France on recycling labels - Hogan Lovells Engage

like 2 clappinghands 1

EU Commission launches an infringement procedure against France on recycling labels

DICK SEARLE

We really need more feedback on the suggestion that packaging reduction should be measured by weight alone

What about avoiding the carbon of food waste which is massive compared to the overall carbon impact of packaging

like 1

[12:45] Venkat Raman

If the base rates are based on council costs, then efficiencies at council level and reprocessing would become a key KPI. In that case, what would be the mechanism to share the information on council efficiencies, targets, and performances with all relevant stakeholders? Given the costs are mostly borne by producers, it is important for them to know why or how the costs are changing every year and what's driving the change.

like 6 heart 1

[12:45] jason (Guest)

even an impartial third party LCA will get it wrong if they don't consult the manufacturers. Many softwares I have seen contain a CO₂e per kg figure for a material that are just wrong and again don't allow for innovation within a material

like 4

Martin Hyde

17/08/2023 12:40

Taken from DEFRA EPR Guidance: You should class a material as 'fibre-based composite' if both of the following are true: the main material is paperboard or paper fibre the material is laminated with plastic It may also have layers of other materials.

Just plastic layers?!

Leach, Barbara

12:51

Robert Fell (MPMA) (Guest) For materials sectors, we will be offering one to one discussions - more information on that very soon.

5 Like reactions.

Mark Browne

12:51

given that producers are paying for the packaging materials at source, then paying for 100% of the waste recovery and processing, will we not technically own the output from the recycling plants? Rather than being forced to buy the recycled material back at higher costs than virgin plastic. By producers you are talking about commercially astute businesses that will expect a guaranteed outcome from the billions of £ DEFRA are planning to extract from UK industry.

4 Like reactions.

Bull, James

17/08/2023 12:51

Just plastic layers?!

Appears to be so, perhaps DEFRA guidance needs updating...

1 Like reaction.

Leach, Barbara

17/08/2023 12:51

Robert Fell (MPMA) (Guest) For materials sectors, we will be offering one to one discussions - more information on that very soon.

That's because we appreciate some discussion may touch on competitive matters

Leach, Barbara

12:52

When you go to the expression of interest form you'll see that option

Venkat Raman

17/08/2023 12:45

If the base rates are based on council costs, then efficiencies at council level and reprocessing would become a key KPI. In that case, what would be the mechanism to share the information on council efficiencies, targets, and performances with all relevant stakeholders? Given the costs are mostly ... As mentioned by council colleagues, enforcement powers to encourage consumers to recycle were deregulated in England in 2015/16, so councils do not have any way of making sure their residents recycle. They can put in all the schemes possible to help, but if consumers don't want to recycle, there's nothing councils can do. It would be great if we did have more powers of enforcement (like Scotland and Wales have) and so we can ensure the efficiencies are as great as possible.

3 Like reactions.

2 Heart reactions.

Sarah Peake

12:53

Just looking at the expression of interest form am I correct in thinking that a packet/filler/brand owner is considered a packaging producer for this form?

Lisbeth Baxter

12:53

should the producers be responsible to pay for Political aspirations?

1 Laugh reaction.

Begin Reference, given that producers are p... by Robert Fell (MPMA) (Guest)

Robert Fell (MPMA) (Guest)

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Mark Browne

17/08/2023 12:51

given that producers are paying for the packaging materials at source, then paying for 100% of the waste recovery and processing, will we not technically own the output from the recycling plants?

Rather than being forced to buy the recycled material back at higher costs than virgin plastic.

This was absolutely the stance taken by the automotive industry when EPR was proposed some years ago. If we pay for the material, then we own it.....

Frankel, Lucy

12:54

Are you taking aqueous coated cups into consideration within the composite fibre category? Or would these be in the paper & card category? There are many paper cups on the market now with a dispersion / aqueous coating rather than a PE or PLA lining.

1 Like reaction.

Butts, Alison (Guest)

12:54

Thank you for joining us today. Here is a reminder of some helpful links:

Expression of Interest Form – Recyclability Assessment Methodology and early years of Modulated Fees. To express an interest and volunteer to work with us on these two projects, please click here.

To subscribe to the Resources and Waste Newsletter, please click here. We will publish a write-up following today's webinar, including Questions and Answers.

A new helpdesk service is now available to answer EPR enquiries. This service will be open from 8am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday. You can either email the new EPR Customer Service mailbox here or call the EPR helpdesk on 0300 060 0002.

Expression of Interest Form - RAM and Modulated Fees

A place for organisations to nominate up to three people to take part in participatory design for RAM and Modulated Fees

defragroup.eu.qualtrics.com

Where can we find the newsletter? by McCarthy, Shane

McCarthy, Shane

12:54

Where can we find the newsletter?

[Paul Vanston]

Thanks to colleagues for presenting ... and joining! 350 colleagues at one point

Boodrie, Doug

12:55

Given current absence of an output from the consistency in household collections consultation how do we determine if the collecting and sorting infrastructure is in place if this will vary by authority?

Joseph Doherty

12:55

Thank you

JOHN SWEENEY

12:55

thanks for the webinar