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Viridor Statement re Recycling Markets and Transparency

As one of the UK's leading providers of resource and waste management services, Viridor Waste Management works with a large number of local authorities, many of which are leading the way with their recycling rates.

Maintaining a clear audit trail record on recyclates derived from local authority collections, their processing and subsequent supply to approved end market reprocessors is an important service and requirement of Viridor's operations. The company's services are audited under Environment Agency issued waste management licenses and accreditations, and by our local authority customers in support of 'duty of care' and contractual responsibilities, whilst fully respecting commercial confidentiality of all parties concerned. Viridor's Business Management System, accredited to international standards for environmental, quality and health & safety management, provides further controls and external auditing of all our operations.

Recycling is a rapidly growing local and global environmental business, driven by national and European legislation and directives setting targets for landfill diversion, recovery and re-use, coupled with global economic trends of supply and demand among the worlds manufacturing reprocessors who wish to use the recyclate. Current end market reprocessing capacity in the UK is limited, whilst increasing amounts of recyclate are being sought and exported to the rapidly expanding major manufacturing regions of the world like China, Asia, etc.

Exports are highly regulated and monitored and controlled by the Environment Agency in cooperation with the competent environment authorities of destination countries. Viridor is accredited by the Environment Agency as an approved exporter, a status that is subject to rigorous auditing, annual review and accreditation of our operations, documentation audit trail records and all end market reprocessors. The presence of such stringent external auditing processes by the Environment Agency (and other bodies) ensures regulatory compliancy and transparency, whilst respecting and protecting party's commercial confidentiality. It is misleading to suggest otherwise.

As a committed industry leader raising standards of environmental performance and resource management, Viridor welcomes a wider public discussion and understanding as to how we as a society manage our resources. However, it is essential that any debate is correctly informed and takes a balanced approach that acknowledges the careful and responsible manner in which the Environment Agency, local authorities, the waste management industry and its Association (ESA) have been working in close partnership with the public to make a real success of recycling in the UK. Public confidence and participation must continue to be encouraged to grow to ensure the country meets key targets and supports the development of our emerging and important recycling industry.

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