

## LATS — Local authority visits

**We will be visiting 24 local authorities in March/April as part of our ongoing commitment to improving data consistency and accuracy**

**We are now in the second year of LATS . Local authorities have got to grips with the reporting requirements and use of WasteDataFlow. We are now seeking to work more closely with individual authorities to improve consistency and accuracy of data.**

Over the next three years we will visit all 121 Waste Disposal and Unitary Authorities to look at the processes and systems in place to collect, quality assure and report LATS data. This year we will visit 24 local authorities throughout England. In the next two years we will visit the remaining 97 authorities.

We have used a risk-based approach to rank all 121 local authorities so that we can prioritise individual visits. This was done as a desktop exercise using 20 criteria. The criteria included:

- reporting and validation compliance
- training and succession planning of staff to use WDF
- communicating with the WDF helpdesk
- varying quantities of municipal waste reported year or year
- recycling and diversion rates
- exporting municipal waste
- using MRFs

This exercise was completed in February and we are in the process of contacting the 24 local authorities who we plan to visit in March and April this year.

We will be explaining to these 24 authorities the purpose and content of our visits and also what information and records we will need to see.

Outputs and feedback from our visits will be published on our website by the end of May. This is in time for the end of year LATS reporting on 30 June.

We will need help and support from local authorities to achieve this timetable and to produce meaningful recommendations.

In summary, our aim is to:

- Identify best practice
- Share common issues
- Look at possible ways of improving consistency and accuracy

In the next three weeks we will be contacting those authorities we want to take part in this year's visits. If you do not hear from us then we plan to visit you sometime between 2008/2009.

Environment Agency's LATS web site <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/> then click on Waste > Local Authority > LATS

You can contact us at:  
The National Customer Contact Centre:  
08708 506 506