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Dear Sir/ Madam

**Implementation of the EU Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
(the WEEE Directive)**

I am writing to let you know that the DTI has today announced that the Energy Minister, Malcolm Wicks has instigated an immediate review of proposals for implementing the WEEE directive in the UK.

This decision reflects the continuing concerns expressed by businesses and stakeholders. It also reflects the Government's commitment to implementing the Directive in the UK in a way which maximises the environmental benefits associated with the Directive and minimises the costs to business.

The review will be undertaken by a cross Departmental team and will be followed by a full consultation exercise in the Spring before we proceed to transpose the main provisions of the Directive into UK law.

The Government accepts that deferral of WEEE implementation has implications for Local Authorities. We announced previously that DTI would meet Local Authority New Burdens costs in the light of Ministerial decisions to defer the WEEE implementation. Specifically, we have said that DTI will meet any costs to Local Authorities of arranging the treatments required for any televisions and PC monitors containing cathode ray tubes and fluorescent lamps which they collect separately (rendering these "hazardous") and sent to a hazardous waste landfill, in advance of the WEEE Regulations introducing producer responsibility for these costs.

DTI is already working with Local Authorities to agree the practical arrangements for meeting this new burden and has already agreed that payment for costs incurred in 2005/06 will be included in the annual settlement figure for 2006/07. In line with the new burdens principle, we will be continuing to work with Local Authorities to establish

the costs arising from the decision to undertake the review and to agree the arrangements for their payment.

I shall be in touch again in the New Year with further updates.

Yours sincerely

Sue Macdonald
Director, Sustainable Development

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