



## ENABLING SCRAP METAL YARDS TO OPERATE DURING THE CONTINUING COVID-19 CRISIS: ADVISORY NOTICE JANUARY 2021

As CEO of the British Metals Recycling Association, the national trade association for metal recyclers, I can confirm that the Government has identified scrap metal recycling as a 'critical industry' and stated that the sector should continue working in order to support the nation's resilience during the continuing coronavirus outbreak.

When Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the first lockdown in order to try to stem the spread of the virus, his government issued a list of sectors considered to comprise 'key' or 'essential' workers, and therefore deemed essential to the country's infrastructure, economy and health.

The UK's waste disposal sectors were deemed 'critical', which the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) confirmed included the metal recycling industry. Likewise, BEIS has also pointed out that there is no requirement for a non-retail business to close.

**This position has not changed** so many scrap metal businesses have remained open. Wherever possible, employees are working from home but, as it was noted, certain jobs require people to travel to their place of work, including those involved in operating machinery.

The work being undertaken by operators collecting and delivering to yards, employees and maintenance engineers, is vital, not least for the continued production of metal food packaging and critical machinery, but also to ensure the steel mills receive a steady supply of scrap metal.

Closing yards could result in **spikes in fly-tipping of domestic appliances, and the abandonment of end-of-life vehicles**. It is essential that these items are processed in accordance with government environmental regulations, through licensed and responsible metal recycling yards.

I would respectfully request that scrap metal yards, their employees and vehicle fleets as well as maintenance personnel are recognised as key workers and as such permitted to continue operating and travelling. If you have any concerns, I or my team would be happy to discuss this further.

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