



# Press Release

Embargo: None

## Trade Associations Meet with DTI regarding WEEE

Leek, Staffordshire 20 July 2007.

On 6<sup>th</sup> July, representatives of NASCR (the National Association of Specialist Computer Retailers) and ITACS (the Independent Trade Association for Computing Specialists) met with the DTI Director and Assistant Director responsible for WEEE. The meeting was informative, covering wide-ranging issues. Whilst our disproportionality argument continued to be deflected with deft description of implementation of a tiered fee structure, several issues of real concern did receive positive feedback.

The delegation was informed that, whilst WEEE Regulations did not prevent small I.T. retailers from using registered DCF Civic Amenity Sites, pre-existing legislation does. Therefore, it is up to each Local Authority to decide whether or not a policy to permit deposit should be adopted. West Sussex County Council and "some others" have done so and it is expected others will follow but it will be a slow process. Meanwhile, and as alternative, the independent sector should explore the possibility of access to private DCFs and Waste Transfer Stations.

The DTI advised that "joint and several liability" of Producer Compliance Schemes did not exist even though at least one PCS had promoted insurance cover for such event as a key selling point. Members are only liable for their own obligations whether or not other members fail.

It was also said much confusion regarding who is a producer has arisen in the sector through misinformation issued by others. An assembler of a personal computer is, in all cases, a producer requiring to be registered.

Hendy Armstrong, the ITACS Secretary, states: "The major outcome of the meeting has been the establishment of a communication channel where none previously existed. Our major concern has always been the expensive WEEE transportation cost burden – in our view a very real business killer. We do hope the enlightened policy of West Sussex County Council cascades in time across the country. However, we feel that a limit of 8 computer monitors per year applied by that Authority is a serious restriction to our businesses. In the course of the coming weeks we shall be checking the rate of advance of Local Authority policy change and forming a view on its effective distribution. Our Associations take the view that the WEEE wheel is indeed round but a few spokes are still missing and these affect our independent sector most. The whole industry is in a competitive race with reducing margins and running repairs need to be made. To wait for a future workshop repair could be fatal. It is critical that dialogue continues as greater understanding of the system develops. Representation needs to be heard at sector, not just small business level".

Jenny Stimpson, NASCR Management Team Member, stated: "Small businesses cannot interpret possible Local Authority Policy changes as giving a green light to using all Civic Amenity sites as of right. That would not be prudent. Many Councils run detection programmes and the consequences can be severe if caught. To help us in monitoring development the Associations would be grateful if individual businesses enquire if the local authority is indeed considering changing its policy and, if so, by when and let us know."

Meanwhile, ITACS intends to continue collecting evidence to support our Associations' claims regarding unfair and disproportionate WEEE burdens but, whilst dialogue continues, suspend our public campaign.

**END**

Further information:

ITACS.

Founded in August 2006 from popular demand to look after the specific interests of the small independent retailer/service provider not adequately represented by existing organisations, the Independent Trade Association of Computing Specialists is a not for profit trade body drawing its Committee and expertise wholly from within its membership. Formation unfortunately post dated the consultation phase of WEEE implementation and the self-evident lack of proper representation at this crucial stage fully justifies its current existence. Further information can be obtained at [www.itacs.org.uk](http://www.itacs.org.uk) or telephone 01538 373978.

Main contact: Hendy Armstrong      Secretary and Committee Member      Tel: 01538 373978

E-mail: [secretary@itacs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@itacs.org.uk)



**With support from:**

**NASCR** - The Trade Association for the Independent Computer Reseller -  
Established 1988

The Association aims to improve the quality of service in the IT field, producing a Code of Ethics and Code of Practice in conjunction with Trading Standards

[www.nascr.net](http://www.nascr.net)

[jennys@nascr.net](mailto:jennys@nascr.net)