

**SUMMARY OF MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE EPA
AND NATIONAL PICTURE**

1. In summary the new toolkit of powers was introduced to provide a more flexible range of measures that allows Fixed Penalty Notices for the more minor regulatory offences whilst increasing the maximum penalties for the main offence of illegal waste disposal.
2. These measures were in line with the Government's desire to take a tougher stance on environmental crime and stress the seriousness of disposing of waste illegally. Part of the rationale for the introduction of these duties was that illegal handling of waste was becoming quite a prevalent practice during the 1990s, resulting in a greater incidence of fly tipping due to improper practice, rogue trader skip and waste operations, and individuals unknowingly being drawn into illegal waste business practices.
3. This was also against the backdrop (late 1990's) of increasing pressure to reduce waste to landfill, increasing disposal costs and the national drive for local authorities to meet demanding national targets for recycling and composting, responding to the increasing cost of landfill and make use of the newly introduced Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme. To support local authorities in this the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant Scheme was introduced, (starting 2005/06).