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CECAN Case Study:

QCA and the Environment Agency's evaluation of waste crime

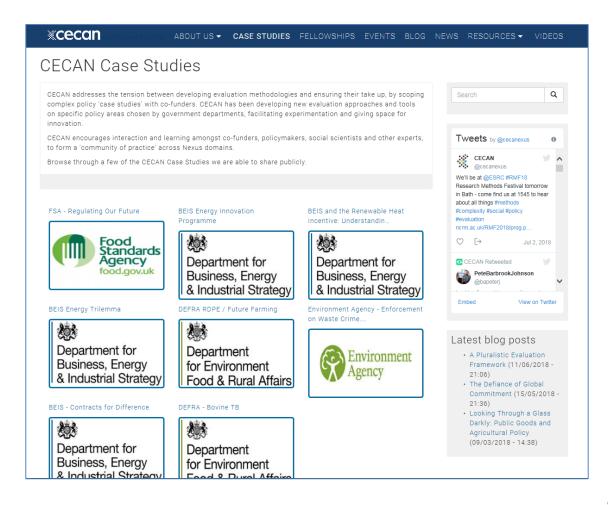






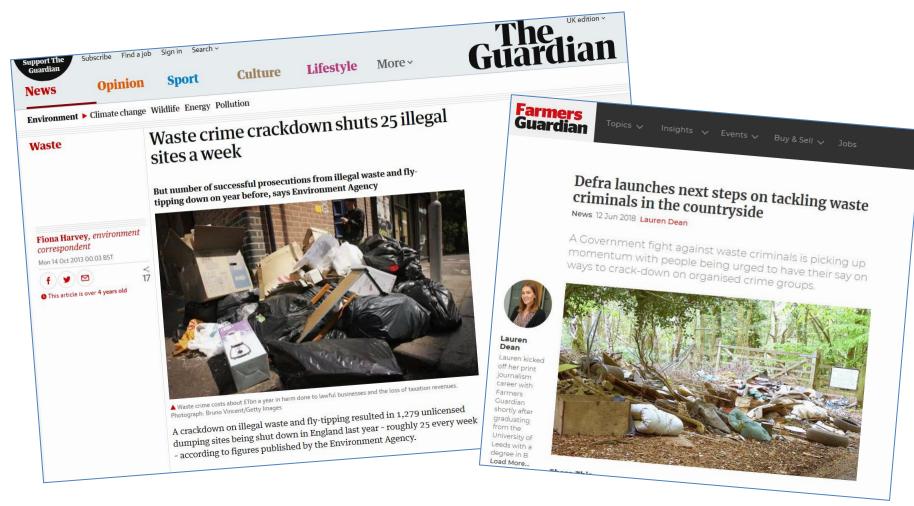
Source:https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-steps-up-the-fight-against-waste-criminals

Co-produced case studies





Waste crime





Complexity and evaluation challenges

- 1. Nexus cuts across nexus domains
- 2. Complex large number of variables, often interacting
- **3. Evaluation challenges** interventions often used in combination or sequence
- 4. Methodological innovation EA keen to explore a more behavioural/contextual approach to evaluation
- **5. Potential Impact** A pilot of how the EA might approach evaluation of regulatory activity more broadly across Agency



So what did we do?

1) Methods scoping workshop (November 2016)

2) QCA design workshop (April 2017)

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Next steps...

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Reference Case reference	Lead officer	Area	Site context Site size	Site age	Offence?	Primary activity	Case context Operator "known" to EA	Offender attitude	Operator assets	Environmental /social	Incident foreseea
CMS or other unique identifier	lead investigating officer	Site area (or if border, lead officer area).	Expressed in tonnes of waste	Length of time EA has been	Illegal site? Mis-description?	Waste storage, disposal,	Operator has connection to	Operator displays hostile or	Operator has significant	Impact There has been a significant	Lack of abatement
			on site	aware of the site*1.	Breach of permit?	treatment etc.		negative behaviour towards EA (or doesn't recognise the		pollution incident or site is causing unacceptable amenity	measures or infrast
								problem).		issues	
CMS or other assigned unique ID	CMS	CMS	CMS	CMS	CMS/Case Office, Case file	CMS		Case officer	Case file, Case officer	CMS, NIRS, Case file, Case	Case file, case offi
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Key learning and insights

Methodological innovation in context

Suilding evaluation capacity and confidence

※ Facilitating expertise exchange



Key role of champions

"CECAN has helped to introduce complexitycompatible evaluation methods into our work to understand the effectiveness of our interventions to prevent waste crime. This support, in particular using Qualitative Comparative Analysis, has helped us to take our evaluation of this work to a level which we would not otherwise have achieved."

Dr Jon Greaves

(Senior Evaluation Adviser, Environment Agency)

