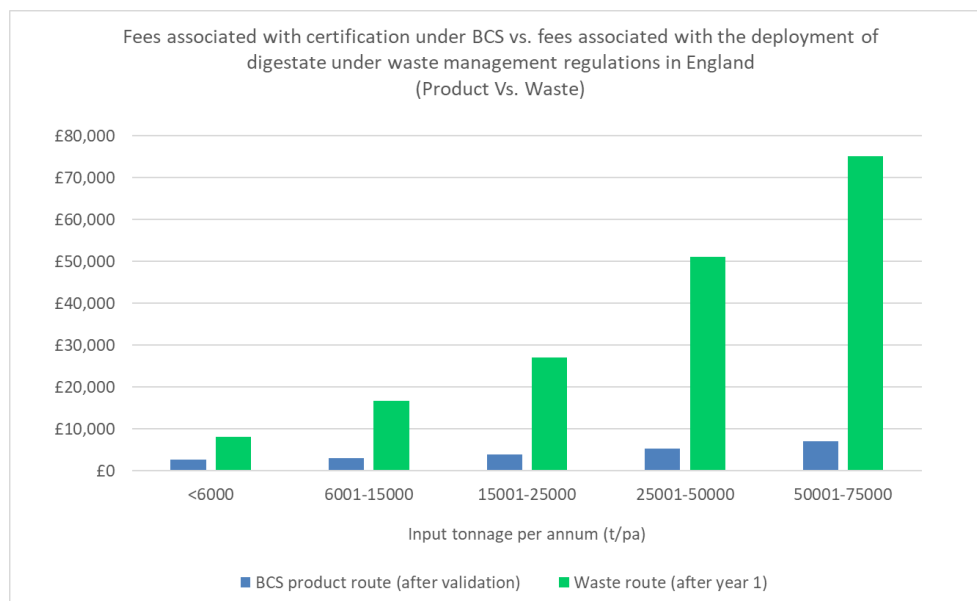


## Application of digestate to land as *biofertiliser* vs. waste

### Fee Comparison - England

The graph below presents an indication of the average annual fees/charges associated with certification of digestates to renew ‘product’ status and the average annual fees/charges associated with deployment of ‘waste’ digestates under waste management regulations in England.



Operators were assigned to categories based on their annual throughput as per the pricing structure of the scheme certification bodies. Fees/charges for certification and land spreading as waste were calculated using the highest throughput value in each category. The largest portion of certified operators falls in the category of those processing between 25,001-50,000 tonnes of organic waste per annum (tpa).

An operator processing 25,001-50,000 tpa incurs fees/charges of approximately £5,200 for independent certification against the end-of-waste criteria to renew their certification on an annual basis. The fees/charges associated with the spreading of waste digestate under waste management regulations in England amount to approximately £51,000 on an annual basis.

*NB The total costs associated with certification and deployment depends on lots of different factors and are site/operation specific. These calculations were based on a number of assumptions and are indicative only.*

*For example, the costs do not account for infrastructure necessary to meet the requirements of the Scheme, such as the cost of installing a pasteuriser, where required. The calculations also only account for the required fees/charges associated with participating in the scheme (‘product’) and deploying ‘waste’ status digestate.*

## Assumptions and supplementary information

**Price for certification:** Annual charge for renewal of certification by scheme certification bodies + annual Research Fee contribution to the Research Hub + laboratory testing for the full PAS 110 suite.

The graph presents average fees/charges per year for each throughput category. The price for laboratory testing was calculated based on the testing requirements in PAS 110 and at the average price rate from quotations obtained from the approved analytical laboratories in England. The amount of digestate output (t) was assumed to be 85% of the throughput (15% mass reduction). The calculations did not assume failing batches, where specific or all mandatory tests would need to be repeated.

The calculations also did not account for additional costs associated with farmers' gate fees and spreading of 'waste' status digestate in the event of non-conformances.

The revenue associated with sales of certified digestate has not been taken into account and should be considered a cost incentive for Biofertiliser Certification Scheme applicants.

One other widely recognised benefit for operators is that spreading of certified digestate can take place immediately, should a last-minute request for quality product be received. This avoids any time lag in ensuring deployments are in place, as is necessary for waste digestate.

**Price for waste deployments:** Annual environmental permit subsistence charge + deployment charge for each deployment + 2 samples and analysis of waste digestate per year.

The price for waste digestate analysis was advised to be £350 per sample on average. The number of deployment applications was calculated from the output tonnage, spreading rate, and maximum area for deployments. The spreading rate of waste digestate was assumed to be 30 t/ha and the maximum area of land for deployment was assumed to be 50 ha. This is considered an average scenario so lower or higher fees/charges might be incurred if spreading more or less than 1,500t / 50 ha per deployment.

Overall, the calculations also did not account for additional costs associated with consultancy, soil sampling and analysis, and spreading digestate (e.g., haulage, fuel, etc.).