



A Somerset scrap dealer has been ordered to pay hundreds of thousands of pounds for running an illegal car breakers yard.

Appearing before Taunton Crown Court on 2 March 2020, Wayne Hillard, 42, was warned he would face a three-year prison sentence if he failed to pay the penalty imposed under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

According to the Environment Agency, Hillard claimed he was only repairing cars when agency officers visited his premises at Springway Farm, Westonzoyland in January 2015.

They suspected he was dismantling scrap cars after previously having been told he must obtain an environmental permit if he intended to dismantle vehicles at the site.

Dismantlers are required by law to remove all hazardous components and materials from End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) including batteries, oils, brake fluids and airbag cylinders. Sites must have special facilities including impermeable concrete floors to ensure spills of hazardous liquids are contained and do not cause pollution, the agency says.

The case was brought by the Environment Agency following a joint investigation with Avon and Somerset Police.