

Somerset Waste Partnership reference: 2016 - 105  
Enquiries regarding alternate weekly collection information  
Date of response: 08.12.2016

Dear XXX

I am writing regarding your recent request for information from Somerset Waste Partnership, which has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Somerset Waste Partnership is a partnership of Mendip, Sedgemoor, South Somerset and West Somerset District Councils, Taunton Deane Borough Council and Somerset County Council. This response covers all those partner authorities.

Q1: Does your council operate a service for Alternate Weekly Collections (AWC)? Yes, under our current Sort-It Plus service, for the majority of households we offer a kerbside sort weekly collection of dry recycling and food waste. Refuse is collected fortnightly, with subscribers to the garden waste service receiving a collection on the alternate week to their refuse. Please see our website [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk)

*Specifically refuse collected one week and recycling the next.  
If no please respond without answering the following questions.*

Q2: When did your council change to AWC? AWC's were rolled out across the partnership in phases from 2004, with the introduction of a collection package, then entitled "Sort-It".

Q3: Did you provide an additional service (i.e. food waste) at the same time as moving to AWC? Yes. With the introduction of "Sort-It" and subsequently "Sort-It Plus", dry recycling collections were introduced then enhanced. Collections of food waste were included from 2004 with rollout.

*If no, please move on to question 4.*

Q3A: If yes, please describe the service you provided. From 2004, we introduced standard weekly dry kerbside sort collections for paper, glass bottles and jars, food and drink cans, aluminium foil, textiles and shoes, plus separate weekly food waste for the majority of households. Subsequently, dry recycling has been enhanced under a service package termed "Sort-It Plus", which added aerosols, cardboard and plastic bottles to the standard service. Please note, food waste and enhanced dry materials are not available for most communal properties, but it is planned to add plastic and card.

Q4: Please provide the amount of larger or additional refuse bins provided after the move to AWC and what litre capacity they were (if available). Under the standardisation brought in from 2004, the standard size bin is 180L for households of four, with smaller 140L options available. For larger households 240L bins are available or combinations on an agreed basis such as for medical or larger household needs.

Q5: Please provide the amount of larger or additional recycling bins (or bags/boxes) provided after the move to AWC and what litre capacity they were (if available). Kerbside food bins are 25L, with 5L kitchen caddies offered. Households are provided with two kerbside collection boxes but can receive additional boxes free of charge on request. Our standard kerbside box for paper, glass bottles and jars and aluminium foil is 44 litres and the black box for food and drink cans, aerosols, plastic bottles and cardboard is 55 litres. Please see [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk)

Q6: Please provide the tonnage increase/decrease in refuse collected for the year following the move to AWC compared with the previous year. Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet and SWP SORT IT PACK (pdf). – Please note that waste composition and total waste levels have changed significantly since our roll-outs.

Q7: Please provide the tonnage increase/decrease in dry recycling collected for the year following the move to AWC compared with the previous year. Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet and SWP SORT IT PACK (pdf). – Please note that waste composition and total waste levels have changed significantly since our roll-outs.

Q8: If you did offer additional capacity for recycling, did you charge for the bin or container? If so, how much? We do not charge for recycling containers.

If you feel your request has not been answered in sufficient detail or if you wish to clarify the information given please contact me and I will be happy to address the issues you raise.

If you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with, or the information you have received, you can ask for an internal review of our decision.

Please send your request to:

Peter Grogan  
Information Governance Team  
Somerset County Council  
County Hall  
Taunton  
TA1 4DY or email [informationgovernance@Somerset.gov.uk](mailto:informationgovernance@Somerset.gov.uk)

An internal review will then be carried out and we will write to you with the results of our investigation. If you are not content with the outcome of our review, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (<https://ico.org.uk>) for an appeal: The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF      Tel: 0303 123 1113

Please quote the reference numbers at the top of this e-mail in any future correspondence with Somerset Waste Partnership.

Yours sincerely