

Somerset Waste Partnership reference: FOI 2016-109
Enquiries regarding waste charges
Date of response: 09.12.2016

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.

In response to your questions: -

What charging increases have been introduced for householders and on what type of waste between November 2015 and December 2016?

SWP introduced charges for the disposal of asbestos and plasterboard at recycling sites from April 2016. Asbestos costs £12 (£10 + VAT) per sheet/rubble sack or equivalent and plasterboard costs £4 (£3.33 + VAT) per 6ft x 3ft sheet or rubble sack (up to 36 inches or equivalent). Storage heaters containing asbestos are £48 per heater.

Prices for the collection of asbestos increased in April 2016 in line with contract inflation. To see the current prices see

<http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/collections/asbestos/>

Charges previously introduced for the disposal of gas bottles, soil and hardcore, tyres and the disposal of vehicle parts increased in April 2016 in line with contract inflation. For current rates see <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/sites/conditions/>

What charging increases or restrictions have been introduced for commercial customers (businesses) and on what types of waste between November 2015 and December 2016?

Commercial prices increased in April 2016, with restrictions on the size of vehicle able to access commercial sites being revised from October 2016 to reflect the introduction of permits for vans, pick-ups and trailers entering all recycling sites.

Please see website for full details of materials and prices.

<http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/business/sites/>

How many recycling centres and tips have been closed between November 2015 and December 2016? - None.

Have opening hours of any recycling centres and council tips changed between November 2015 and December 2016? - No.

How many hours per week, on average, were recycling centres and council tips open in your council area between November 2015 and December 2016? What were those usual opening hours?

Five of the larger recycling centres are open 7 days a week, 8am to 4pm = 56 hours per site.

11 sites are open 8am-7pm on Mondays, have two mid-week closed days, but when open mid-week and Saturdays are open 8am-4pm and 8am to 1pm on Sundays = 40 hours per site per week.

Please see - <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/sites/list/>

How many hours per week, on average, were recycling centres and council tips open in your council area between November 2014 and December 2015? What were those usual opening hours? As above.

Did you charge for the collection of garden waste between November 2015 and December 2016? If so, how much? Yes,

Garden waste collection service charges for 2015/16 were:

District	Wheeled Bin	Sacks (10)
Mendip	£48.00	£25.00
Sedgemoor	£48.00	£25.00
South Somerset (new trial for a two year option)	£48.00 (12 months) or £88.00 (24 months)	£25.00
Taunton Deane	£48.00	£25.00
West Somerset	£53.00	£25.00

Garden waste collection service charges for 2016/17 are:

District	Wheeled Bin	Sacks (10)
Mendip	£50.00	£26.00
Sedgemoor	£53.00	£26.00
South Somerset (new trial for a two year option)	£50.00 (12 months) or £95.00 (24 months)	£26.00
Taunton Deane	£53.00	£26.00
West Somerset	£53.00	£26.00

See <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/collections/garden-waste/>

Did you charge for the collection of bulky waste between November 2015 and December 2016? If so, how much? Yes.

Bulky waste charges for 2015/16 are:

District	Up to 3 items	Subsequent items each*
Mendip	£40.00	£10.00
Sedgemoor	£40.00	£10.00
South Somerset	£40.00	£10.00
Taunton Deane	£40.00	£10.00
West Somerset	£40.00	£10.00

* There is a maximum number of 5 items per collection.

Bulky waste charges for 2016/17 are:

District	Up to 3 items	Subsequent items each*
Mendip	£41.00	£11.00
Sedgemoor	£41.00	£11.00
South Somerset	£41.00	£11.00
Taunton Deane	£41.00	£11.00
West Somerset	£41.00	£11.00

* There is a maximum number of 5 items per collection.

Please see - <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/collections/bulky/>

What waste did you charge for and how much was the charge before November 2015? As above.

How many incidents of flytipping have been reported to the council between November 2015 and December 2016? – Somerset Waste Partnership does not hold this information. Please contact the district councils direct.

How many on the spot fines have been issued for flytipping since the new powers were given in May 2016 to December 2016? Somerset Waste Partnership does not hold this information. Please contact the district councils direct.

How much money has been made from on the spot fines for flytipping between May 2016 and December 2016? Somerset Waste Partnership does not hold this information. Please contact the district councils direct.

How many prosecutions have there been for flytipping and waste crimes between November 2015 and December 2016? Somerset Waste Partnership does not hold this information. Please contact the district councils direct.

How many people have received jail sentences for flytipping or waste crimes between November 2015 and December 2016? Somerset Waste Partnership does not hold this information. Please contact the district councils direct.

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

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