

Somerset Waste Partnership reference: 2017-111
Enquiries regarding recycling and plastic
Date of response: 09.01.2017

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 Environmental Regulations (EIR) (2004). 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: -

1. a. Are you the local authority that is responsible for the collection of household waste for recycling/reuse/compost [henceforth referred to collectively as recycling] in your area?
 1. b. If yes, please specify the percentage and weight of all waste collected in your area that was collected for recycling in the years
 1. b. i. 2014/15 and
 1. b. ii. 2015/16?
 1. c. of the household waste that was collected for recycling, please specify, if known, the percentage and weight that was plastic in
 1. c. i. 2014/15
 1. c. ii. 2015/16
 1. d. If no to 1.a., please specify the local authority that is/was responsible for collection in your area.

2. a. Did you record how much of the waste sent for recycling was actually recycled in
 - a. i. 2014/15 and
 - b. ii. 2015/16
2. b. If yes, please specify the percentage and weight of the waste sent for recycling that actually ended up being recycled in
 2. b. i. 2014/15 and
 2. b. ii. 2015/16
2. c. If known, please specify the percentage and weight of plastic sent for recycling that actually ended up being recycled
 2. c. i. 2014/15 and
 2. c. ii. 2015/16
2. c. If known, please specify the percentage and weight of waste collected for recycling that was sent to landfill/incineration in
 2. c. i. 2014/15 and
 2. c. ii. 2015/16
2. d. If no to 2.a., please explain why you do not monitor or enforce the reporting of your waste sent for recycling that is actually recycled.

3. a. Was any of the material you collected for recycling sent abroad for processing in the following years and if so what percentage and weight in

3. a. i. 2014/15 and

3. a. ii. 2015/16?

3. b. if known, please specify the percentage and weight of the waste sent abroad that was plastic

3. b. i. 2014/15 and

3. b. ii. 2015/16?

3. c. i. if known, please specify the percentage and weight of recycling material that was sent abroad was actually recycled in the years

3. d. i. 2014/15

3. d. ii. 2015/16

4. Please specify the names of all subcontractors you paid to manage your recycling in any form and the value of those contracts in

4. a. 2014/15 and

4. b. 2015/16

5. Do you, the local authority, accept that your declared recycling rates in the years 2014/15 and 2015/16 could be an overestimate as they do not account for the material rejected by the recycling companies and/or materials recovery facility?

Please see the attached spreadsheet providing answers to the queries above.

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