

Somerset Waste Partnership reference: 2017-122
Enquiries regarding charges applicable to residents at recycling centres
Date of response: 19.04.2017

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 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.

I confirm we hold the information you request. In response to your questions: -

1) Please detail what charges there are, if any, at your Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)?

Answer –

For charges to dispose of hardcore, soil, tyres and gas bottles, please see -
<http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/sites/conditions/charges/>

For charges to dispose of domestically generated vehicle parts, please see -
<http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/sites/conditions/vehicle-part-recycling-disposal/>

For charges to dispose of asbestos and plasterboard, please see
<http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/sites/asbestos-plaster-disposal/>

There is a £2 entry fee to visit our two community recycling sites, which are Crewkerne in South Somerset and Dulverton in West Somerset.

2) Please state when charges were introduced and whether they have increased or decreased from their introduction to date.

Charges for the disposal of soil, tyres and gas bottles were introduced on 1 April 2011

Charges for entry to four (now two) community recycling sites was introduced on 1 April 2011

Charges for the disposal of car parts (at ten sites only) were introduced on 1 April 2015

Charges for the disposal of asbestos and plasterboard at selected recycling centres were introduced on 4 April 2016

Charges have increased at the start of each financial year at the beginning of April in line with annual contract inflation. Charges for entry to the community recycling sites have not been increased since the introduction in 2011.

3) Please provide a copy of the minutes of the meeting where it was decided to introduce charges, if your authority has done so.

Please see –

<http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/council/meetings/reports.asp?item=776> (Item 6)

<http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/council/meetings/reports.asp?item=1386> (Item 6)

For previous copies of Board reports and Minutes from the Somerset Waste Board, see

http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/council/meetings/results.asp?ccode=32&SMonth=September&SYear=2010&EMonth=December&EYear=2009&sort=Meeting_Date+DESC&searchpage=1&Input=Search

4) Please state the total income generated by your local authority from any charges in the following financial years:

Charges for soil, hardcore, tyres, gas bottles and car parts are levied by the Recycling Centre contractor rather than the Council and as such no income is generated on behalf of the local authority. Financial saving is derived by the local authority through no longer having to pay the contractor to handle these categories of waste.

Income for asbestos & plasterboard (net of VAT);

2013/14 - Nil
2014/15 - Nil
2015/16 - Nil
2016/17 - £58,030

Income for entry to the community recycling sites (net of VAT);

2013/14 - £101,656
2014/15 - £70,409
2015/16 - £65,618
2016/17 - £63,045

5) Please state whether opening hours at your HWRC's have been reduced in the past financial year. No.

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