

Somerset Waste Partnership reference: 2017-124
Enquiries relating to commercial waste and enforcement
Date of response: 07.06.2017

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: -

If your organisation does **NOT** collect commercial waste from businesses please skip to question **3**. Otherwise please continue to question 1.

1: Do you use the EDOC system for commercial waste? (www.edoconline.co.uk)

Answer - No our contractor does not employ this system

The duty to provide commercial waste collections is carried out by our collection contractor and SWP do not manage this service. Most commercial waste produced in Somerset is dealt with by the commercial sector and SWP deal with a very small amount through its collection contractor (Kier).

1b, If not, are there any specific reasons why it has not been implemented?

Answer - They utilise their own system.

2: What commercial waste streams do you collect? Please answer yes or no.

Refuse: - Yes

Mixed Recycling: - Yes

Paper: - Yes

Cardboard: - Yes

Glass: - Yes

Plastics: - No, except plastic bottles

Food: - Yes

Textiles: - Yes

Other (Please describe):

3: Do you enforce Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990? (Duty of Care for businesses)?

Answer – Yes.

3.A If yes is this done internally or by an external company?

Answer - Internally.

3.B Is the enforcement facilitated strategically based on intelligence or through random visits?

Answer - Both.

3.C How many enforcement officers do you have?

Answer - We have no dedicated enforcement officers but our operations officers do carry out limited enforcement functions as part of their overall duties.

3.D Do you offer a grace period when discovering a business is in breach of the EPA where they can improve their compliance? Or is the fixed penalty notice issued immediately?

Answer - SWP has not issued any Fixed Penalty Notices.

3.E How many fixed penalty notices have been issued in 2014, 2015, and 2016 for businesses not having Duty of Care/Transfer of Waste documents.

Answer - SWP has not issued any Fixed Penalty Notices.

3.F How many fixed penalty notices have been issued in 2014, 2015, and 2016 for businesses not keeping to the waste hierarchy. Such as keeping waste to a minimum by doing everything they reasonably can to prevent, reuse, recycle or recover waste in that order. As enforced by the Environmental Protection Act.

Answer - SWP has not issued any Fixed Penalty Notices.

4: If applicable, what checks are in place to mitigate commercial and trade waste entering household waste sites?

Answer - SWP officers undertake visits to commercial outlets suspected of abusing the domestic waste stream. Bin checks can be carried out.

4:A If applicable, do you allow businesses to take waste to your household waste sites? If so, what are the charges?

Answer - Ten of our sites have licenced facilities for business waste. For more information see: <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/business/sites/>

For a list of current materials accepted and charges please see: <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/CommercialWasteFlyer03.04.2017.pdf>

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