

Somerset Waste Partnership reference: 2017-129  
Enquiries relating to permit scheme costs & fly tipping figures  
Date of response: 19.07.2017

Dear XXX

### **FOI 2017-129 re Permit success allows full weekend access**

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: -

Thank you for your FOI request regarding the recent decision of the Somerset Waste Board to act upon the results of the 6 month review of the Recycling Centre Van & Trailer permit scheme. I attach a link to the public Board report <http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/documents/s3862/Review%20of%20HWRC%20Resident%20Permit%20Scheme%20report.pdf> that answers many of your questions but to pick out the salient points;

1. Please provide a breakdown of costs for the implementation of the initial permit scheme.

The initial cost of setting up the permit scheme and its administration since implementation in October 2016 is circa £38,000

- circa £300 for pre site survey work
- £2,500 for support from the Library Service for aiding those permit applicants without internet access
- circa £2,800 for web design, build and maintenance
- circa £7,000 for scheme publicity and communications
- £3,100 for on-site signage and information
- circa £22,300 for permit administration, production and distribution

2. Please provide a breakdown of costs for the ongoing administration of the permit scheme (including web hosting, postage, card printing etc).

The ongoing maintenance of the scheme is expected to be in the region of £15,000 per annum, the majority of which will be spent on continued publicity & communications and permit production & administration for new applicants.

3. Please provide a breakdown of costs for the implementation of the revised permit scheme (as described below).

The permit revisions now approved by the Somerset Waste Board are included in the £15,000 quoted in response to your Question 2. There is a possibility that we will significantly reduce costs should we move to an 'e-permit' scheme in the future.

4. Please provide detailed figures for fly-tipping in the Somerset area, broken down if possible to areas related to each recycling centre (the one of most interest

would be the Mendip area and Dulcote recycling centre). These figures should be provided from 1 year BEFORE the initial permit scheme was introduced up to the latest date you hold figures for. Please ensure they are broken down into at least monthly periods.

Please find attached a link to the public performance report that was also taken to the recent Somerset Waste Board

<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/documents/s3857/Performance%20Outturn%202016-17%20Appendices.pdf> , appendix B1 confirms the fly tipping totals in Somerset

for the past few years. You'll note that the total fly tipping incidents in Somerset dropped by 7% in the past year, helped significantly by the combined actions of Somerset Waste Partnership and its partner authorities to deter these illegal acts. I'm afraid we do not hold data by specific towns but do show by District area.

5. Please provide details figures of any perceived cost-saving as a result of introducing the permit scheme.

Since implementation of the permit scheme we have seen tonnages reduce by 11% (by 15% if compared to the upward trend prior to implementation during the April to September 2016 period) – this represents a cost saving of approximately £200,000 in avoided costs for the period October 2016 to March 2017. Clearly if this trend continues additional savings will be made but it is too early to determine what the long term trend will be post the recent permit revisions.

I hope this fully answers your questions and that you find the provided links, to the public reports, useful for further background and confirmation that the initial results of the permit scheme have generally been positive.

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