

Somerset Waste Partnership reference: 2017-128
Enquiries relating to collecting garden waste
Date of response: 03.07.2017

Dear XXX

Collecting garden waste

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: -

Collecting garden waste:

1. Do you charge for collection of garden / green waste?

Yes

2. If you do charge, how much do you charge for this in the financial year 17/18?
£53.50 for a 180ltr bin or £26.50 for 10 compostable sacks

2. What service to they get for this charge? e.g. are there restrictions such as the number of bags?

Terms can be found at <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/collections/garden-waste/tc-201516/>

3. If you charge for garden waste collection, what year did you start to do this?
Since the inception of SWP 2007, prior to this each District began at different times but all were charging for garden waste in 2007

4. What months do you offer a garden waste collection?

Throughout the year with a suspension for the fortnight of the festive holiday (Christmas and New Year) period

5. How often is garden waste collected?

Fortnightly

6. What is the total number of households, and percentage of households, where garden waste is collected?

Approx. 46,500 which is around 19% of the households in the County.

7. Are there any additional garden waste charges (e.g. Christmas trees disposal)?

No

Composting:

8. Do you compost the collected garden waste?

Yes

9. If so, what percentage do you sell this back to the public, and at what price?
Please include details of the weight of the compost for this price.

At point of delivery the material becomes the property of the processor

10. If so, what percentage do you use for public grounds and gardens? What is the value of this to you in the most recent financial year you have the data for?

N/A

11. Are there any additional sources of income from collected garden waste?

No

Total costs (Forecast 17/18 and actual 16/17):

12. What is the cost to you each year of collecting and disposing of garden waste?

Approx. £3.25 million

13. How much did you make from any collection charges and sale to the public of composted waste?

This service does not make any money and continues to receive subsidy through the general Council Tax

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