

Somerset Waste Partnership reference: 2018-19 - 148  
Enquiries relating to green recycling boxes  
Date of response: 16.05.2018

Dear XXX

### **Freedom of information request – green recycling boxes**

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) Are these containers made from recyclable plastic? - If No, what plans are there to make them from recyclable plastic? - If Yes, why aren't the containers marked accordingly ?

The kerbside boxes supplied by our suppliers are made from recycled plastic. Our experience is people pay little attention to messages on the side of boxes, hence the value of marking would be very limited.

2) How many new containers are issued annually across all of the six Districts that you manage? (Mendip, Sedgemoor, South Somerset, Taunton Deane, West Somerset)

Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet.

3) How many of these containers have been purchased for six districts over the last five years, what has been the cost of purchasing these containers over that period ? Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet.

4) I observe that most of the breakages of these containers occur when the containers are jettisoned by the recycling staff after emptying. What training is in place to minimise breakages so caused? All kerbside collection crew are managed by our contractor Kier MG. All their staff, both direct employees and agency staff receive full induction training on a range of topics which includes manual handling and representation standards required for the kerbside boxes. Kier supervisors monitor the crews directly and Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) Operational officers liaise with the Kier supervisors when SWP is made aware of ongoing dissatisfaction with the return presentation of kerbside boxes.

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