

Somerset Waste Partnership reference – 2021-22-247

Enquiries relating to – Recycling

Date of response: 08.06.2021

Dear XXX

### **FOI-Recycling Information**

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 (SWP) is a partnership of Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton, and South Somerset District Councils, and Somerset County Council. This response covers all those partner authorities.

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

#### **I firstly wanted to ask are you aware of what percentage of the residents in the area don't actually recycle?**

Our last participation analysis in 2018 found that we have an 85% participation rate in the kerbside recycling. This does not automatically equate to 15% not recycling, as those residents may put out recycling less frequently, or may use alternative options such as recycling sites. Some residents also challenge themselves to reduce waste as much as possible so try not to produce any recycling or refuse.

In short, we do not have a figure of how many residents don't recycle at all, but it's reasonable to assume it's a fairly low percentage.

#### **Do you know roughly the amount of recycling you get sent every year in tonnes?**

In 2020/21 we recycled 135,127.88 tonnes, and reused 2017.97 tonnes. We publish a recycling tracker which details the totals and reprocessors every year on our website at <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/beyond-the-kerb/>

#### **What percentage of recycling is turned away simply because it's not been cleaned?**

We do not reject uncleaned materials as a general rule, though we do advise residents to rinse any food/drink residue, and the majority do so. As we operate kerbside sort, if the item is too contaminated/dirty, the crew could leave it in the box. We are not able to quantify how often this happens.

**One of the things we are looking at specifically is single-use plastic in the country, out of the plastic that's sent to you what would you say is the percentage that is actually non-recyclable?**

We operate kerbside sort collections, so the crews will leave behind anything we do not accept. The material streams we send to reprocessors contain very low levels of contamination and so it is all recycled.

**We've been thinking especially about gluesticks, gluesticks do vary from the area, specifically in the local area do you advise that they just go into the landfill due to the adhesive?**

We would not accept glue sticks in our kerbside collections, so they would be asked to be placed in the refuse bin. Our refuse from the kerbside goes to energy from waste, not landfill.

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:

Lucy Wilkins  
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 correspondence in any future correspondence with Somerset Waste Partnership.

Yours sincerely