

Somerset Waste Partnership reference – 2021-22-260
Enquiries relating to – The number of wheeled bins in Somerset
Date of response: 22.09.2021

Dear XXX

Freedom of Information Request

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.

Thank you for your enquiry, unfortunately we don't hold records of the total number of bins in Somerset, as you will be aware there are a number of commercial waste collection providers in the market place who will have bins in Somerset for which we have no records. It is also difficult to keep exact tags on bins out in the community of over 250,000 households and it does fluctuate.

We can however give a reasonable estimate of the number of bins, these are based on the collection services we provide to householders across Somerset and I set these figures out below.

Mendip District Council approx. 47,000

Sedgemoor District Council approx. 48,000

South Somerset District Council approx. 67,000

Somerset West & Taunton approx. 62,500

Garden waste bin customers approx. 55, 000

I note from your request you want these numbers to help establish a bin cleaning company in Somerset. As we operate a service centred around the promotion of recycling it may also be worthwhile examining the potential for a service which offers cleansing of recycling containers. Possibly more popular for the food caddies but some residents may want their boxes cleaned as part of the service you offer.

If you were to use the same numbers provided for bins for food caddies and double for recycling boxes, again it would be reasonable estimate for the number of containers out in the residential community in each of our districts.

Approximate numbers across Somersets 260,000 households

280,000 2 wheeled bins

280,000 food caddies

560,000 recycling boxes

I'm afraid I don't know the likely level of demand for this service but hope you find the numbers helpful and I wish you all the best in your endeavours.

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

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