

Somerset Waste Partnership reference – 2021-22-264
Enquiries relating to – Round data and Volume of refuse collected
Date of response: 08.10.2021

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.

Please see attached our previous response on your previous request regarding the number of bins in Somerset and can I take this opportunity to acknowledge receipt of your further request for number of refuse trucks and rounds etc. that we have also received recently. I will happily provide these to you, but we are in the middle of a significant service change in Somerset and any information I provide on round structures will very quickly become out of date. As you can appreciate, I wouldn't want to waste our time providing something which will very quickly become obsolete.

As I stated previously, I can't really give a definitive opinion either way on whether a bin cleaning service will be popular in Somerset but did make some suggestions which I thought might be helpful in expanding your operations to include food and recycling containers. I'm afraid some of your email regarding an 'Environmental Act' didn't come through fully so didn't quite catch the reference. We as a Council carry out some cleaning of bins when they are returned into stock (our current contract for this service forms part of the collection contract which runs for another 8 years) whilst they are in the public domain it is the responsibility of the householder to clean the bins.

As I say I am happy to provide the information you have requested through the FOI process but as also pointed out this will quickly become irrelevant.

I think it may help get to the information you want and potentially save us both a lot of time by arranging a time convenient to us both where we can have a quick chat to see how we can best help you.

Please let me know how you wish to proceed and if acceptable I will try and find a time where we can have a chat.

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