



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

T 08459 335577  
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

Our ref: RFI 6529  
Date: 19 May 2014

Dear

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY CONTRACTS IN ENGLAND**

Thank you for your request for information dated 16 April asking for 'some information on the current state of play on the destination of Local Authority residual waste in England. To be more precise, [you are] looking to build up a picture/data set of Disposal Authority contracts with regard to residual waste only. e.g..

1. Details of Contract by individual Disposal Authority—when the contract went live, Date of expiry, Contract value, name of contractor, annual tonnage etc.
2. Facility details – type of facility the residual waste is consigned too under the Disposal Authority Contracts, including details of any PFI projects either in operation or in construction or at planning stage.

[You are] unsure whether or not this data set exists but whatever information [we] are able to provide would be very much appreciated. If it is of assistance a simple spreadsheet outlining the requested information would suffice.'

As you are aware, we have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We wish to be as open as possible in answering requests. The EIRs also require us to provide advice and assistance to help people obtain the information they are looking for and make good use of the EIRs.

To assist you, I attach the following information we have previously released on residual waste infrastructure facilities in England which includes some of the information you have requested. This information was used in Defra's most recent analysis of waste arisings and treatment capacity published on 18 October 2013. The report can be accessed



through the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reducing-and-managing-waste/supporting-pages/waste-infrastructure-delivery-programme>. The analysis informed the Secretary of State's decision to revoke the offer of financial support to the Norfolk County Council waste infrastructure project.

I also attach separately to this letter the document "Project List.pdf" which lists plants and relevant data.

Due to the volume and complexity of the information you have requested I would suggest that, if the information we have provided is not sufficient, the best way we can help you is to ask you to consider narrowing down your request to focus more clearly on the precise information you are seeking. You could, for example, consider asking for information on a sub-set of projects. For example, Defra is investing £3.5bn of Waste Infrastructure Grant in 28 Local Authority projects (see Annex C). This will help to narrow the scope of the request and make the response simpler to coordinate.

By virtue of regulations 12(1) and 12(4)(b) of the EIRs, Defra may refuse to disclose environmental information if the request for the information is manifestly unreasonable and, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Should you feel the need to ask more precise questions, please write to the WIDP Programme Office again. Please note that we will handle your modified request as a new request. The 20-working-day timescale for responding to requests will therefore commence from the date that we receive the modified request.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you (via the hyperlinks quoted above and attachments to this letter).

I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact the WIDP Programme Office.

Yours sincerely

WIDP Programme Office

[widp.programmeoffice@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:widp.programmeoffice@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## Annex A

### Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents produced by Defra will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

---

## Annex B

### Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: [requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk)) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
  
SK9 5AF

Annex C – 28 PFI Projects in Defra's Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme

1	<b>BDR (Barnsley, Doncaster &amp; Rotherham)</b>
2	<b>Cambridgeshire</b>
3	<b>Central Berkshire (Reading, Wokingham, Bracknell Forest)</b>
4	<b>Cornwall</b>
5	<b>East Sussex, Brighton &amp; Hove</b>
6	<b>East London WA</b>
7	<b>Essex</b>
8	<b>Greater Manchester WDA</b>
9	<b>Herefordshire and Worcestershire</b>
10	<b>Hertfordshire</b>
11	<b>Isle of Wight</b>
12	<b>Kirklees</b>
13	<b>Lancashire</b>
14	<b>Leeds</b>
15	<b>Leicester City</b>
16	<b>Northumberland</b>
17	<b>Nottinghamshire</b>
18	<b>Shropshire</b>
19	<b>South Gloucestershire</b>
20	<b>Southwark</b>
21	<b>Staffordshire</b>
22	<b>South Tyne &amp; Wear P (Gateshead, Sunderland and South Tyneside)</b>
23	<b>Suffolk</b>
24	<b>Surrey</b>
25	<b>South West Devon (Plymouth, Torbay and South Devon)</b>
26	<b>Wakefield</b>
27	<b>West Berkshire</b>
28	<b>West Sussex</b>