



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Our ref: RFI 6442
Date: 17 April 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: CONTAMINATION OF RECYCLING BY FOOD OR
GENERAL WASTE**

Thank you for your request for information about the contamination of recycling by food or general waste 2009 – 2013, and the management and costs of dealing with contaminated waste.

We received your request on 24 March 2014. 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).]

Please see below the breakdown of local authority recycling rejects for the past 5 years in England. We have extracted this data from WasteDataFlow, which is the web-based system through which local authorities provide data on waste management. Recycling rejects by local authorities can be downloaded if needed from the WasteDataFlow website using the link detailed below.



Coverage: England

	*Total collected for recycling, composting and reuse (tonnes)	Total recyclate rejected (tonnes)
2012/13	10,457,329	226,770
2011/12	10,645,504	182,536
2010/11	10,613,385	213,163
2009/10	10,335,999	187,560
2008/09	10,199,392	166,796

* Based on local authority collected waste for recycling, composting and reuse

Breakdown of tonnage rejected by disposal route

	Total		*Total rejected to other disposal routes (tonnes)
	rejected to landfill (tonnes)	Total rejected for incineration (tonnes)	
2012/13	105,869	110,640	10,261
2011/12	104,638	73,125	4,773
2010/11	118,739	67,106	27,318
2009/10	112,282	69,295	5,982
2008/09	103,014	54,031	9,751

***All recycling rejected to unspecified disposal route**

Coverage: England

Source: WasteDataFlow.

Website: <http://www.wastedataflow.org>

Reject figures are based on final information from Waste Disposal Authorities and Unitary Authorities in England

Breakdown of data by local authority can be downloaded from the Analytical Report page of the WasteDataFlow website

You may also wish to consult this report produced by Zero Waste Scotland on levels of contamination in source separated recyclates that was published by Zero Waste Scotland:

<http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/report-contamination-source-separated-municipal-and-business-recyclate-uk-2013-0>

WasteDataFlow does not contain the cost data you requested. For costs, you may wish to consult this report on gate fees produced by WRAP:

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/wrap-annual-gate-fees-report>

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on www.gov.uk together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

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 me.

Yours sincerely



Defra Waste Programme

Annex A

Copyright

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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) 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

