



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Consultation on consistency in household and business recycling collections in England

Part 1: analysis of responses from members of the public and householders

July 2019



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Overview

The consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England closed on 13 May 2019. Over 1700 responses from individuals, businesses and other organisations were received.

This document will make up the first part of the analysis, focusing on those respondents who classified themselves as an individual or householder/member of the public and who did not affiliate their answers with any organisation. A total of 1182 responses fell into this category. These responses have been analysed against each question. A summary of responses from non-household stakeholders such as local authorities is on a separate document: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/waste-and-recycling-making-recycling-collections-consistent-in-england>

Specific indicative frequency terms have been used to describe the percentage of responses that expressed a particular view to each question:

Key terms	Value represented
Predominant	>80%
Majority	50-80%
Mixed/range	There is not a majority
Large minority	20-50%
Small/some/a number	<20%

Given the high level of public and stakeholder interest in recycling we are publishing the summary of responses earlier than required to signal a clear direction of travel. This necessarily means that specific details of policy design will be developed in the months informed by further work to analyse the responses received in more detail. We will also gather more evidence. We will continue to work with all stakeholders to develop there more detailed propositions

Dry recycling

Proposal 1: core set of dry recyclable materials

We propose that all local authorities in England should be required to collect a core set of dry recyclable materials at kerbside from houses and flats.

Question 5: Setting aside the details of how it would be achieved, do you agree or disagree with the proposal that local authorities should be required to collect a core set of materials for recycling?

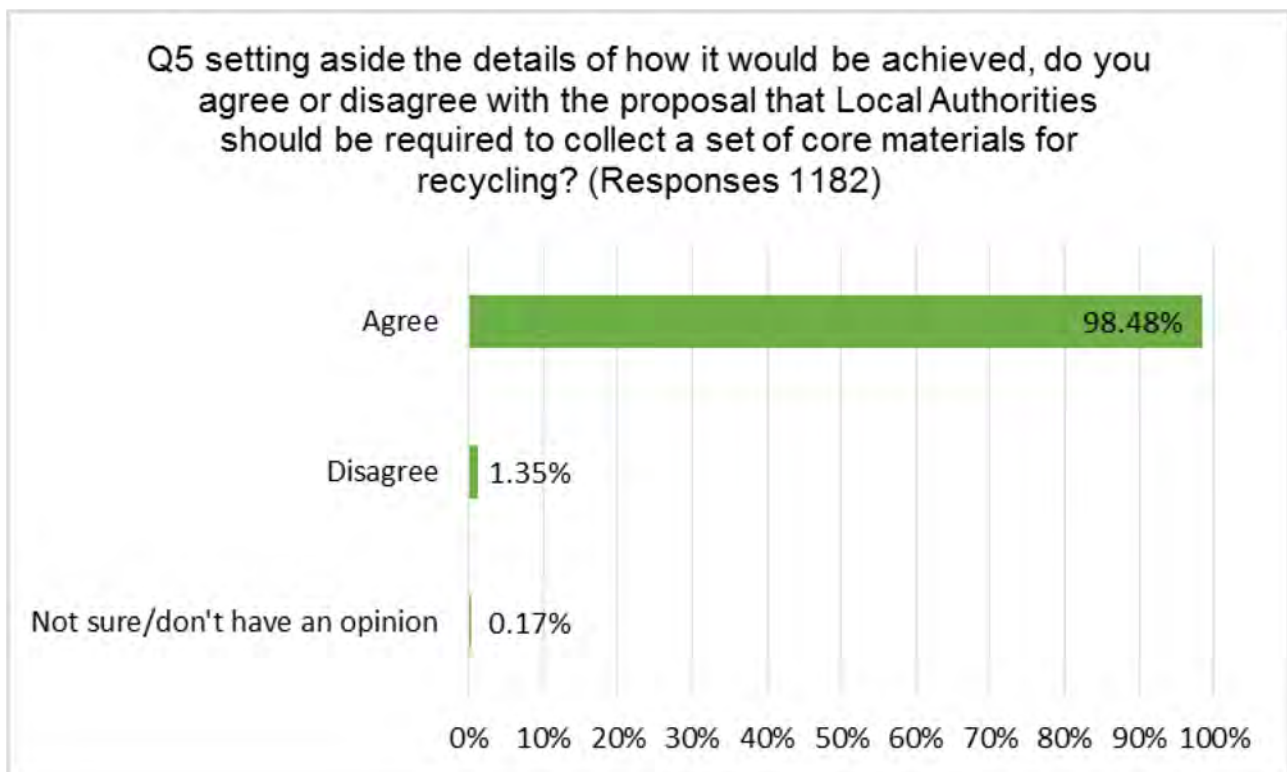


Figure 1: Analysis of 1182 responses by individuals/householders for Q5

Figure 1 shows that above 98.48% of individuals agreed that local authorities should be required to collect a core set of materials for recycling. 1.35% disagreed and 0.17% were not sure or did not have an opinion.

Question 6: We think it should be possible for all local authorities to collect the core set of materials. Do you agree with this?

The majority of respondents 98.48% who agreed with this proposal cited the need to properly fund local authorities to collect more materials for recycling. Many commented on the positive effect this would have on simplifying recycling.

Reasons given by those who disagreed with this proposal included:

- lack of space for storing recyclable waste within homes
- lack of end markets for some recyclable materials
- freedom for local decision making
- that a core list might dissuade local authorities from collecting other materials not on the list for recycling

Question 7: What special considerations or challenges might local authorities face in implementing this requirement for existing flats and houses in multiple occupancy?

Respondents raised a number of considerations they thought would challenge the effective delivery of this policy, including:

- meeting any new costs incurred by collecting more waste as recycling
- ensuring local authorities and landlords effectively communicate new recycling arrangements to an often transient and diverse community
- making sure flats/HMOs have enough recycling bins to accommodate an increase in material put out for recycling
- overcoming existing building design that favours residual waste disposal (e.g. residual waste chutes)
- Allowing room for local decision making – for example, allowing local authorities to collect recyclables comingled from flats, regardless of the preferred collection method elsewhere

But by far, the challenges most frequently raised were:

- limited storage at flats and HMOs and the complications this would pose separate collections of materials for recycling
- reducing contamination rates, which respondents said are typically higher at flats and HMOs

Finally, some respondents argued that regardless of the unique challenges that flats and HMOs pose, all residents should have the same quality of service and opportunity to recycle.

Question 8: What other special considerations should be given to how this proposal could apply to flats? Please provide additional information on your answer.

A variety of views were expressed in response to this question. The most common suggestion was provision of communal waste receptacles to counter the frequent lack of space outside the flats. Many emphasised that these communal areas should be secure, clean and accessible, and that caddies/smaller waste receptacles should be provided to assist transport to the communal area(s). There was often an emphasis on collective responsibility to maintain these communal areas.

Question 9: Do you have any other comments to make about Proposal 1?

Further common comments to Proposal 1 were:

- consideration of collection issues in rural areas (e.g. infrastructure, vehicle size and capacity)
- guidelines to be provided to householders on preventing contamination
- additional funding to be provided to local authorities that don't have the infrastructure to process additional dry recycling streams that aren't currently collected
- some of the responsibility of consistency in recycling must lie with the producers, such as clearer recycling labelling on packaging (in line with the government's EPR reforms)
- local authorities that collect materials beyond the core set should still be able to do so
- the core set should be extended where possible

Proposal 2: materials in the core set of dry recyclables

We propose that the core set of materials is glass bottles and containers, paper and card, plastic bottles, plastic pots tubs and trays, and steel and aluminium tins and cans.

Question 10: Do you believe that all of these core materials should be included or any excluded?

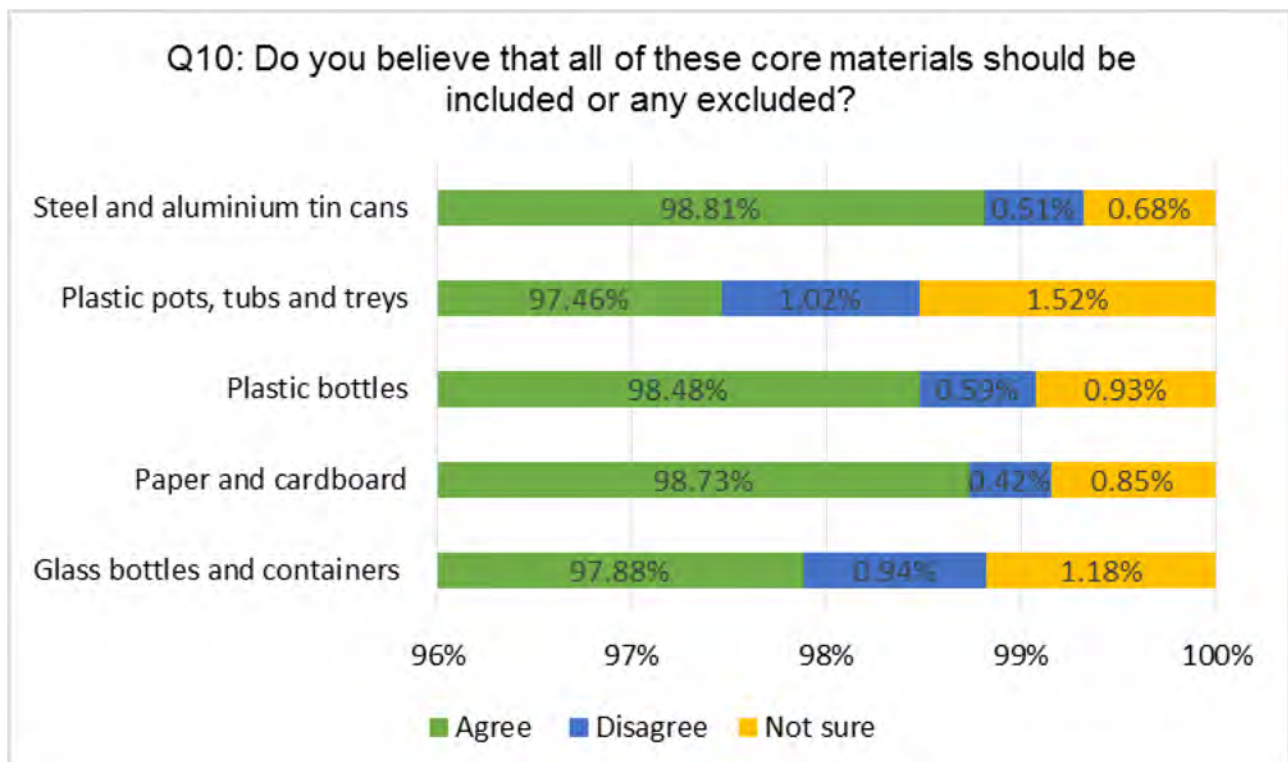


Figure 2: Analysis of responses by individuals/householders for Q10 part i) ii) iii) iv) v)

97.88% of individuals agreed that glass bottles should be included in the core set of materials that local authorities would be required to collect. 98.73% of individuals agreed that paper and cardboard should be included; with 98.48% of individuals also agreeing that the core set should include plastic bottles. 97.46% of individuals who answered also believe that plastic pots, tubs and trays should be included in the core set of materials collected. Finally 8.81% of individuals agreed that aluminium tins and cans should be included in the core set of materials collected.

Question 11: What, if any, other products or materials do you believe should be included in the core set that all local authorities will be required to collect?



Figure 3: Analysis of individual responses to Q11 part i) ii)

Figure 3 shows 84.39% of individuals agree that food and drink cartons should be included in the core set of materials collected by local authorities. 73.52% of individuals agree that plastic bags and film should be included. While 15.22% preferred to include plastic bags

¹ Duplications were present in this data set. Seven individuals selected multiple contradictory options and true opinions were not able to be ascertained from their answers. Fourteen duplications have therefore been removed from the original number of responses to this question.

and film but phase this material in. A minority disagreed that this material should be included at all.

Question 12: If you think any of these or other items should or should not be included in the core set immediately please use the box below to briefly explain your views.

The individuals who responded to this question predominantly agreed with the concept of recycling more and including more products and materials in the core set.

There was also large support for consistency and a simplified system that was accessible to all. More individuals agreed with materials being introduced in the core set from the start as opposed to phasing in materials at a later date. The reason most frequently given for not phasing in materials was the risk of greater confusion. However, a large majority of individuals were of the opinion that a phased in approach to match the changes in material streams over time may be acceptable as long as it was communicated clearly to the public.

There was a mixed range of opinions on the addition of plastic film and plastic bags being added to the core set. Some respondents thought that these materials should eventually be phased out or banned. A small number commented on the difficulty of recycling plastic film. A large number of respondents were confused about the recyclability of black plastic and Tetrapack and felt that they should be more widely recycled. The majority of those who commented on Tetrapak or black plastic stated that it should be included in the core set of materials. Some individuals also expressed support for lids and milk bottle tops to be included alongside takeaway cups and crisp packets.

Over 80% of respondents were in favour of the separate collection of a core set of materials. A small number expressed a desire for centralised sorting as opposed to sorting at kerbside and separate collection of dry recyclable materials, arguing that sorting at home is too complex and centralised sorting would capture more recyclable material as long as the technology and resources were in place.

There were frequent references to food and garden waste collections in the consultation responses. The majority of comments on garden waste and food waste stated their support for mandatory collection of these materials and said that they should be part of the core set but collected separately.

There was strong support for textiles to be included in the core set of materials, with the majority of individual responses stating that they should be included from the start.

A large number of individual responses also mentioned that drinks and food cartons should be included.

Other materials that received strong individual support to be included in the core set or phased in were aluminium, wood, batteries, small electronic devices, pharmaceutical

packaging, bubble wrap, polystyrene take away cups and crisp packets. Some respondents praised local authorities for the services they currently offer and expressed a desire for these services to continue. However, most of these responses also mentioned that their local authority already collected the core set proposed or went further and collected a broader range of recyclable materials.

Question 13 and 14: If you think these or other items should be considered for inclusion at a later stage, what changes would be needed to support their inclusion? Do you have any other comments to make about Proposal 2?

Many of the respondents believed that the following were necessary:

- investment in new infrastructure to process newly added materials to ensure domestic processing
- stable secondary markets for the introduced materials
- clear guidance and increased education for households
- additional bins (especially mixed bins as the number of materials increase)
- legislation to ensure that all local authorities collect new 'core' materials
- increase in the number of public drop-off points to ease the strain on kerbside recycling (e.g. bottle banks)
- development of technology to ensure that hard-to-recycle materials can be processed once collected e.g. black plastics

Proposal 3: review and expansion of the core set of dry recyclables

We propose that this core set of materials should be regularly reviewed by government and, if appropriate, expanded over time provided that a) evidence supports the benefits, b) there are viable processing technologies for proposed materials, c) there are sustainable end markets, d) local authorities would not be adversely affected, including financially.

Question 15: Do you agree that the core set should be regularly reviewed and, provided certain conditions are met, expanded?

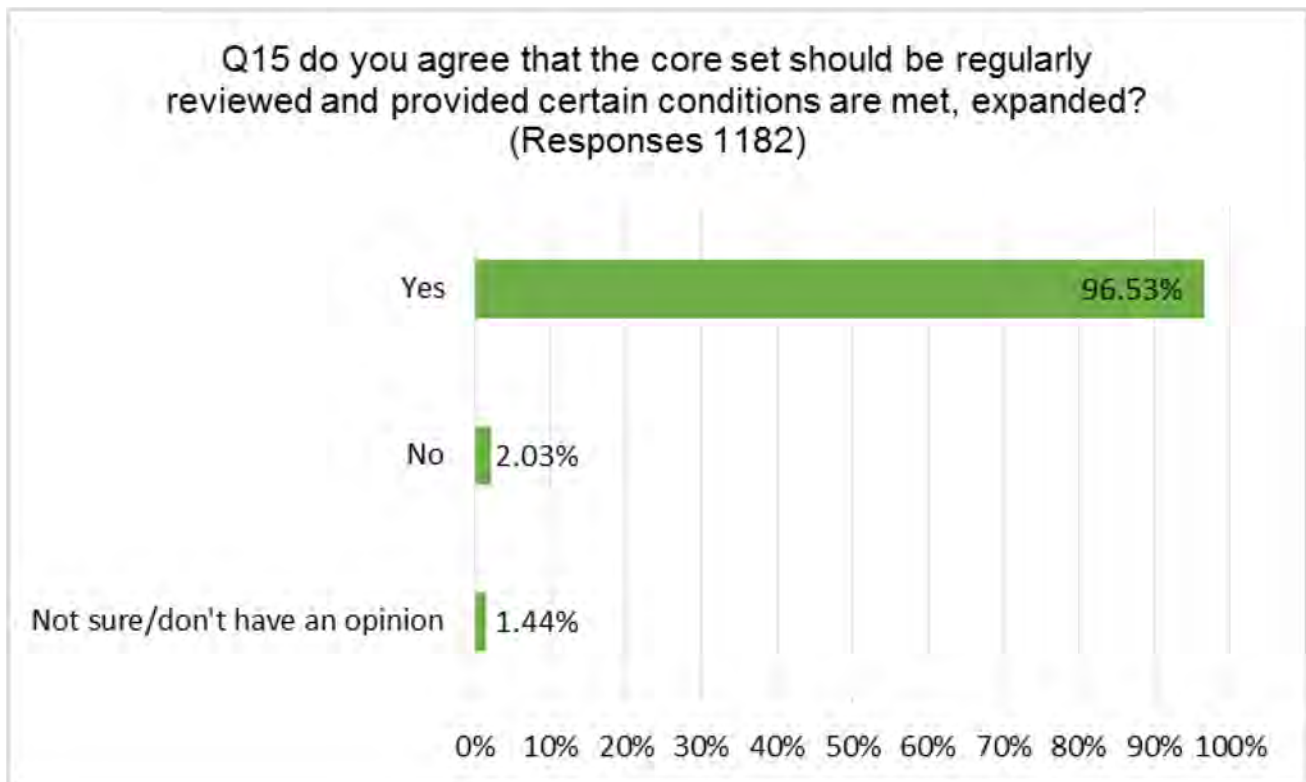


Figure 4: Analysis of 1182 individual responses to Q15

Figure 4 shows that individuals predominantly (96.53%) agreed that the core set should be regularly reviewed and, provided certain conditions are met, expanded. A small minority disagreed (2.03%), or were not sure (1.44%).

Question 16 and 17: Do you believe that the proposed conditions a) b) c) and d) above are needed to add a core material? Do you have any further comments?

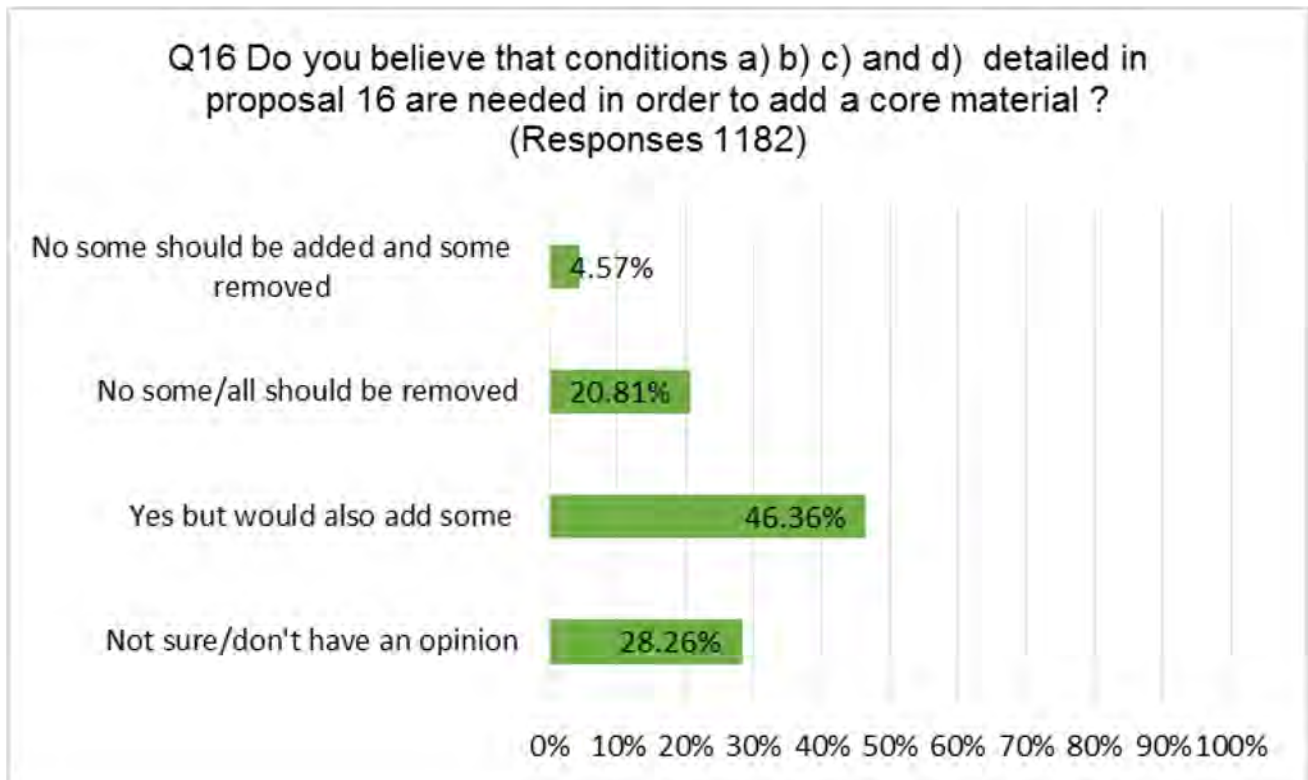


Figure 5 Analysis of 1182 individual responses to Q16

Figure 5 shows that more than 46% of individuals agreed that the core set of materials should be regularly reviewed by government and, if appropriate, expanded over time provided that

- a) evidence supports the benefits
- b) there are viable processing technologies for the proposed materials
- c) there are sustainable end markets
- d) local authorities would not be adversely affected, including financially

However, more than 20% disagreed and believed one or more of the conditions proposed should be removed, and more than 28% were not sure or had no opinion.

In the free text section the majority of individuals disagreed that financial viability should be a barrier to more materials being included in the core set. However, many individuals who shared this opinion qualified it stating that local authorities should not have to cover the cost of introducing new materials if financially unviable. Instead, they believed central government should fund this as a new burden.

A number of individuals stated that there would need to be guidance or more clarity from Defra on how condition a), b), c) and d) would be measured. For example, some asked who would decide what constituted adverse effects or evidence that supports benefits.

A large number stated that a lack of end markets (option b) should stop materials being added to the core set and instead stated that we should be looking to build these end markets so that more can be recycled.

Many called for clarity regarding this question, stating that they did not understand what the question was asking or how to answer. This may explain the large number of individuals who ticked “not sure/don’t have an opinion” in the drop down section.

Food waste

Proposal 4: weekly separate food waste collections

By 2023 we propose to legislate for local authorities to provide all kerbside properties and flats with access to at least a weekly separate collection service for food waste, including provision of containers and liners.

Question 18: Which aspects of the proposal do you agree and disagree with?

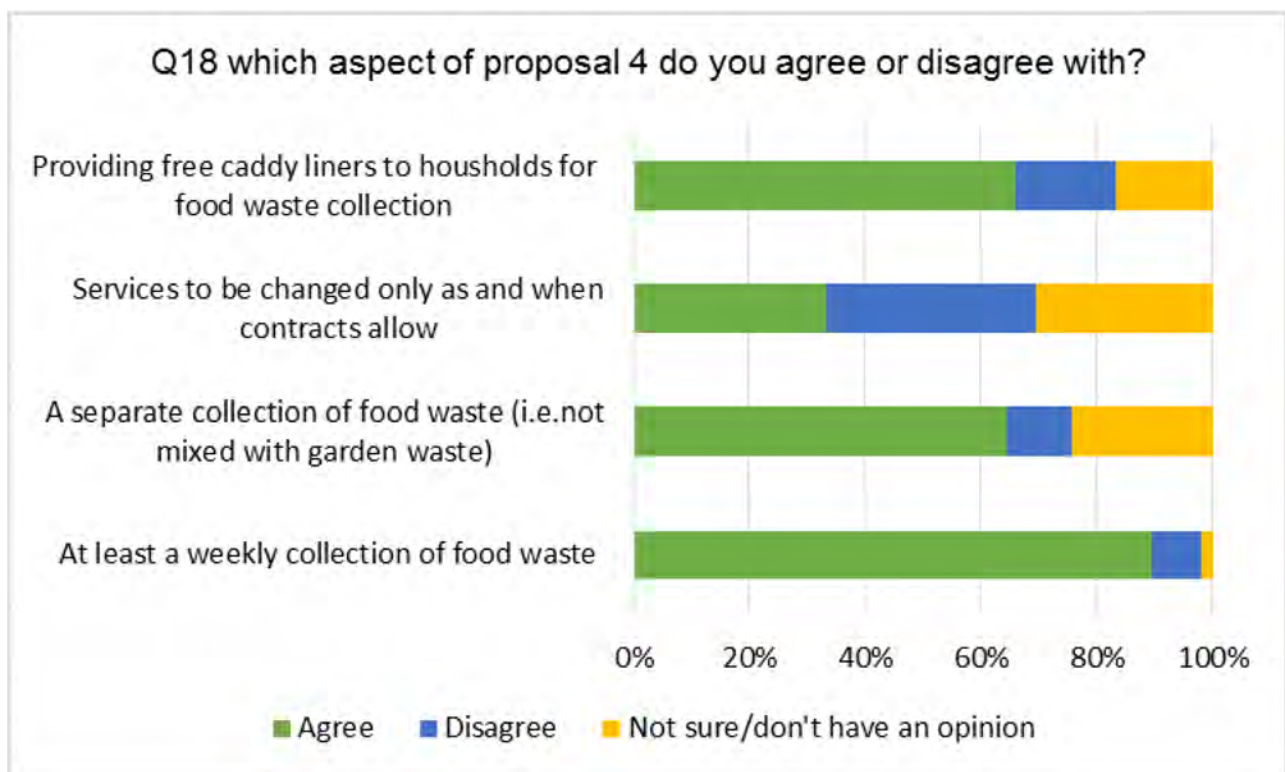


Figure 6 Analysis of 1176 individual responses to Q18 i) ii) iii) iv)

Figure 6 shows that 84.27% of individuals agree that food waste should be collected on a weekly basis. Far fewer disagreed or were not sure². Individuals (64.40%) agreed that food waste should be collected separately and not mixed with garden waste. However, there was also a large minority of individuals who were not sure or did not have an opinion on this.³ A mixed range of individual responses, commented on allowing service changes to be introduced only when contracts allow with no clear majority evident. While a majority of individuals (66.96%) agreed that free caddy liners should be provided to householders for food waste collection.⁴

Question 19: Are there circumstances where it would not be practical to provide a separate food waste collection to kerbside properties or flats?

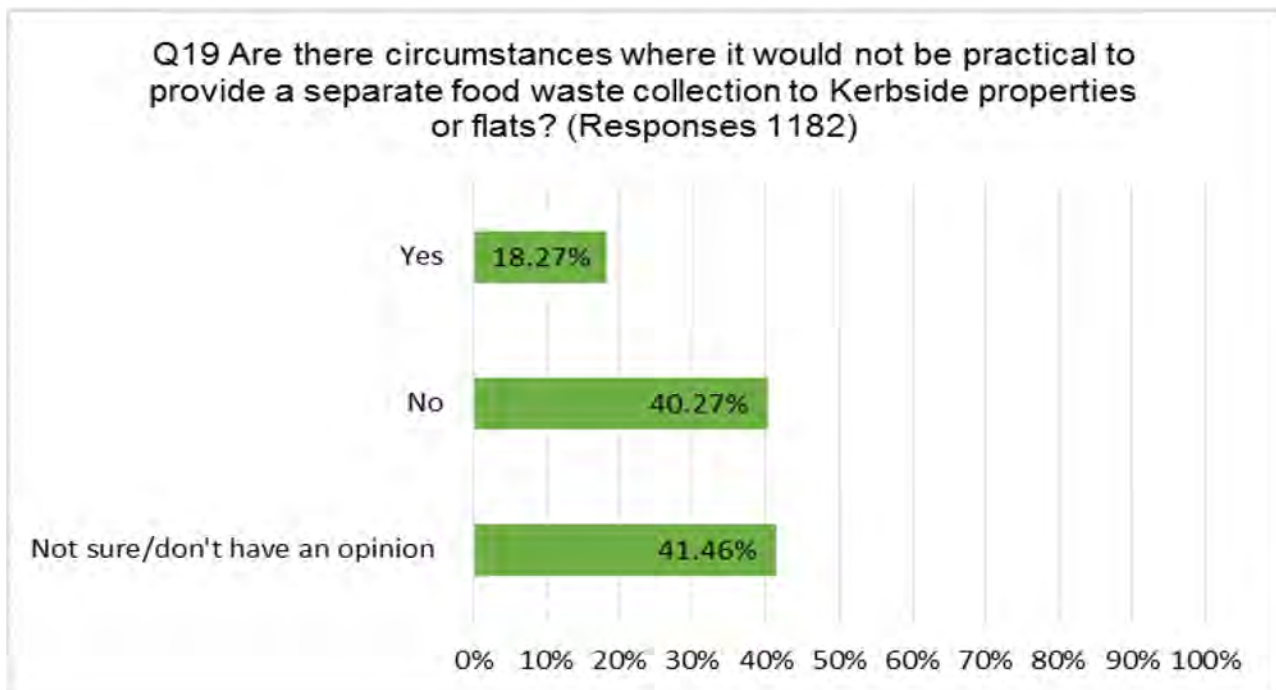


Figure 7 Analysis of 1182 individual responses to Q19

² Six individuals selected multiple conflicting options in the drop down menu for Q18 (1). Unfortunately, it was not possible to ascertain a clear opinion from the 6 individuals in their answers as many had ticked all three options or two options that contradicted one another. Therefore, in order to maintain a clear data set these duplications were removed – (5 duplications were removed from “agree”, 6 were removed from “disagree” and 2 were removed from “not sure/don’t have an opinion”, from a total of 6 responses). This

³ Duplications were present in this data set. Eight individuals selected multiple contradictory options and true opinions were not able to be ascertained from their answers. These duplications have therefore been removed – (7 from “agreed”, 5 from “disagreed” 5 from “not sure”, taking the total from 1191 to 1174).

⁴ Duplications were present in this data set. Seven individuals selected multiple contradictory options and true opinions were not able to be ascertained from their answers. These duplications have therefore been removed – (5 from “agreed”, 5 from “disagreed” 5 from “not sure”. taking the total from 1190 to 1175).

Figure 7 shows that 40.27% of respondents believed that there are no circumstances where it would be not practical to collect food waste from kerbsides. 41.46% were not sure and 18.27% of respondents thought there were circumstances where it would not be practical to collect food waste from kerbsides.

This question generated a range of views, with 40.17% of individuals disagreeing with the proposal. A range of reasons were given:

- a number of responses emphasised that those living in flats should also be held accountable for food waste recycling and that providing flats with a larger communal bin and smaller caddies provides a practical solution
- many urban local authorities have already successfully implemented food waste programmes collecting from flats, both in the UK and abroad
- regular food waste collections would ensure that individuals living in flats have the opportunity to recycle food waste where home-composting is more difficult
- the transition period would require education and/or central support to ensure that the correct food waste is recycled
- it may not be technically, environmentally or economically practicable for all properties in rural areas to have provision for regular food waste collections
- of the 18.7% of individuals agreeing with the proposal, a range of reasons were given
- a number of responses highlighted limited space in flats to store multiple bins. Other logistical difficulties often mentioned included: high-rise properties, flats above shops, and provision for those that may require further assistance to carry out recycling
- a number of responses mentioned potentially high contamination rates and lack of cleanliness of bins at multiple-occupancy properties
- a number of responses highlighted concerns about vermin and hygiene when storing food waste, and therefore requested regular food waste collections, particularly in the summer months
- some suggested local authorities could be best placed to decide where these schemes deliver best value for money because schemes in urban areas can often suffer from poor participation rates

Question 20 Free Text: Do you have any other comments to make about Proposal 4?

- A number of responses stated that caddy liners provided should be biodegradable, or replaced with an alternative to plastic. There were also multiple responses stating that evidence is required on whether free caddy liners promote food waste recycling
- a number of responses stated that this proposal should be implemented as soon as possible
- local authorities that currently comingle biowaste (i.e. food and garden waste) should be allowed to continue this service if it is environmentally beneficial to do so

- it was suggested that this proposal could be voluntary to prevent collection of food waste from properties where it is not practical to do so
- food waste containers should be sturdy and inaccessible to animals such as foxes
- collections should be regular to ensure that conditions remain sanitary
- better communication is required to relay the benefits of separate food waste collection, the process of waste treatment and what items can/can't be collected. Better communication will also ensure those who don't regularly use their properties comply with the legislation e.g. individuals renting holiday lets
- some respondents did not understand why food waste needs to be collected separately from garden waste, or considered there to be successful existing systems that combine garden and food waste prior to collection
- there were suggestions that different frequencies of food waste collections would be required in the winter and the summer.

Proposal 5: funding of infrastructure

We will provide funding and support to local authorities to help put in place the necessary collections infrastructure.

Question 21 and 22: If you are responding on behalf of a local authority, what kind of support would be helpful to support food waste collection?

This question was not applicable to individual respondents but has been covered fully in our analysis of stakeholder responses. However, individuals did comment that appropriate funding was key to support collection infrastructure as well as partnership working between local authorities and to using smart evidence-based solutions to overcome challenges such as geographical area and population density.

Proposal 6: separate presentation of food and garden waste

We believe it would be desirable for local authorities that have contractual commitments with in-vessel composting (IVC) facilities, which needs mixed garden and food waste, to require separate presentation of food waste but then be able to mix it with garden waste for treatment purposes. This is because our evidence shows that separate presentation of food waste leads to higher yields.

Question 23: What are your views on this proposal?

Views were mixed on this proposal and many cited difficulties understanding the proposal itself. The majority of respondents agreed with the proposal, with many in favour of evidence-based policy to provide the best environmental outcome. Some also cited the

need for more regular food waste collections (compared to garden waste collections), to prevent smell, vermin and contamination.

A large minority of respondents were unsure of their view on proposal 6. Common reasons for this included unclear evidence and a lack of knowledge on the policy area.

A number of respondents disagreed with the proposal. The most common reasons included: leaving decision-making powers to local authorities; opposition to increasing the number of bins outside affected households; and a lack of consistency between weekly food waste collections and fortnightly garden waste collections. A few respondents also cited a need to move away from In-Vessel Composting and towards Anaerobic Digestion to provide the best environmental outcome for food waste recycling.

A number expressed views that, regardless of the system, clarity was needed on the end destination of waste and the benefits of the chosen collection method.

Garden waste

Proposal 7: free garden waste collections

We are seeking views on whether households generating garden waste should be provided with access to a free collection service. If introduced this this would be a minimum fortnightly collection service of a 240-litre capacity container (either bin or sack). Local authorities may provide additional capacity or more frequent services and would be able to charge for this additional provision.

Question 24: Which aspects of the proposal do you agree or disagree with?

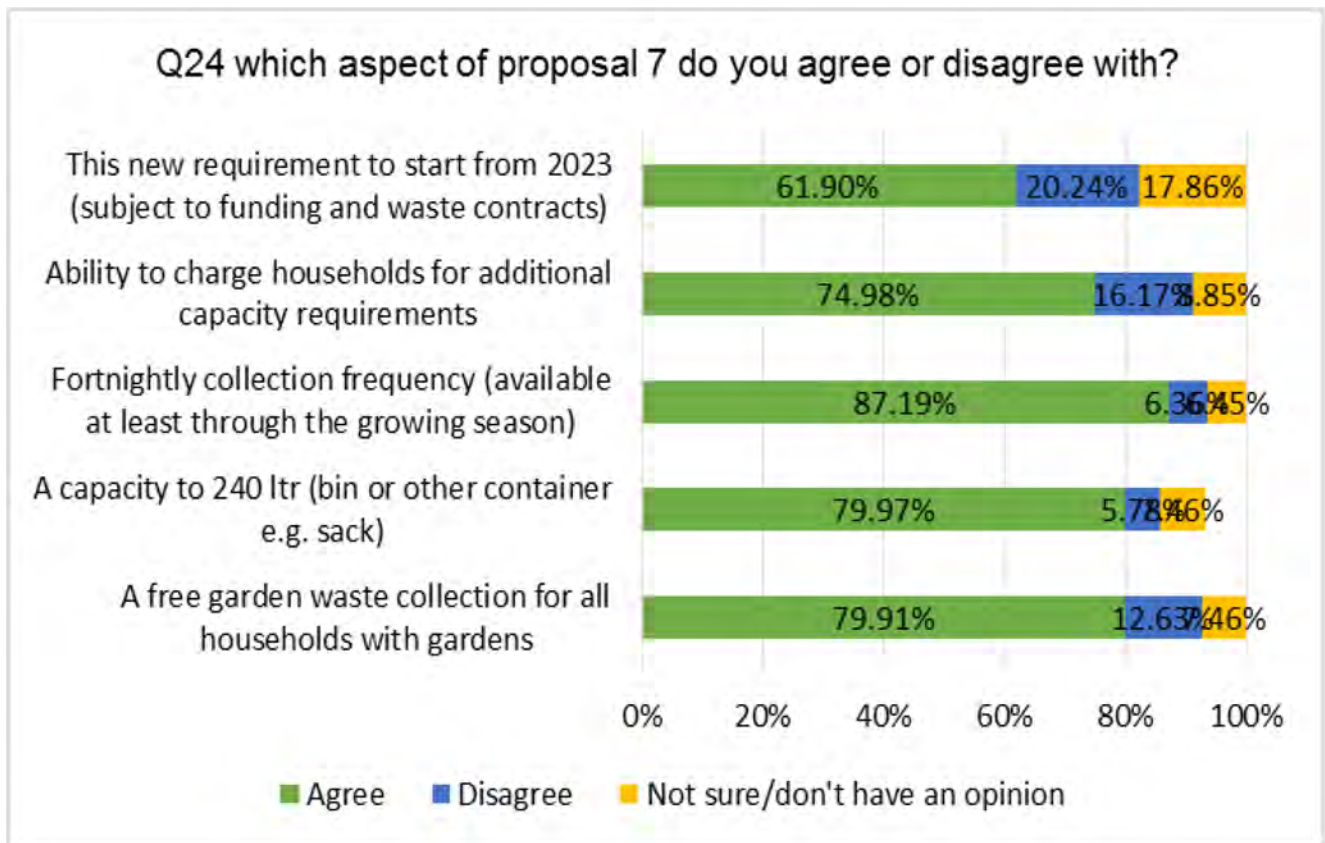


Figure 8 Analysis of 1180 individual responses to Q24 i)ii)iii)iv)v)

79.91% of individuals agreed with the proposal for a free garden waste collection for all households with gardens⁵. Predominantly individuals agree that a 240ltr bin or sack is the appropriate capacity for garden waste collection. A small number disagreed or did not have an opinion⁶. 87.19% individuals agreed with a fortnightly collection frequency⁷,

⁵ Duplications were present in this data set. Two individuals selected multiple contradictory options and true opinions were not able to be ascertained from their answers. These duplications have therefore been removed – (2 from “agreed”, 2 from “not sure/don’t have an opinion”, taking the total from 1184 to 1180).

⁶ Duplications were present in this data set. Four individuals selected multiple contradictory options and true opinions were not able to be ascertained from their answers. These duplications have therefore been removed – (4 from “agreed”, 4 from “disagreed”, taking the total from 1186 to 1178).

⁷ Duplications were present in this data set. Three individuals selected multiple contradictory options and true opinions were not able to be ascertained from their answers. These duplications have therefore been removed – (3 from “agreed”, 1 from “disagreed” 2 from “not sure/don’t have an opinion”, taking the total from 1185 to 1179).

74.98% of individuals who responded agree that local authorities should have the option of charging additional capacity, collection and containers over the set minimum capacity requirement.⁸ Finally 61.90% of individuals agreed that the new requirement should start from 2023, subject to funding and waste contracts.⁹

Question 25: Do you have any other comments to make about Proposal 7?

A majority of respondents who added a further comment to the proposal agreed with the provision of a free collection service, with some adding that that the proposals should be enforced prior to 2023. A number of respondents highlighted that the proposal would help to discourage fly-tipping. A number of respondents also suggested weekly collections during the “growing season” and less frequent collections throughout the rest of the year.

A number of responses raised concerns over the funding for extra collections. The most common issues raised were: those without gardens unfairly subsidising the collections of those with gardens; local authorities being subject to additional costs; home composting as an alternative to garden waste recycling; and a lack of market for the high volumes of garden waste that would be collected. A small number of these respondents suggested that an opt-in service would be more practical and/or were opposed to sacks as waste containers.

There were a few responses that sought more clarity on the question. This included definitions of “the growing season” and “garden”, in addition to requests for diagrams explaining how the provision of 240ltr containers compares with the containers currently available.

⁸ Duplications were present in this data set. Seven individuals selected multiple contradictory options and true opinions were not able to be ascertained from their answers. These duplications have therefore been removed – (6 from “agreed”, 4 from “disagreed” 4 from “not sure/don’t have an opinion”, taking the total from 1189 to 1175).

⁹ Duplications were present in this data set. Six individuals selected multiple contradictory options and true opinions were not able to be ascertained from their answers. These duplications have therefore been removed – (6 from “agreed”, 5 from “disagreed” 1 from “not sure/don’t have an opinion”, taking the total from 1188 to 1176).

Separate collection

Proposal 8: separate collection and statutory guidance on minimum service standards

In addition to the new core set of materials that we will require to be collected, we want to promote separate collection of materials where this is feasible and can help to improve quality. We propose to amend the law to clarify this and will include guidance in our proposed statutory guidance on minimum service standards to help local authorities and waste operators in decision making on separate collection.

Question 26: Do you agree with the proposed approach to arrangements for separate collection of dry materials for recycling to ensure quality?

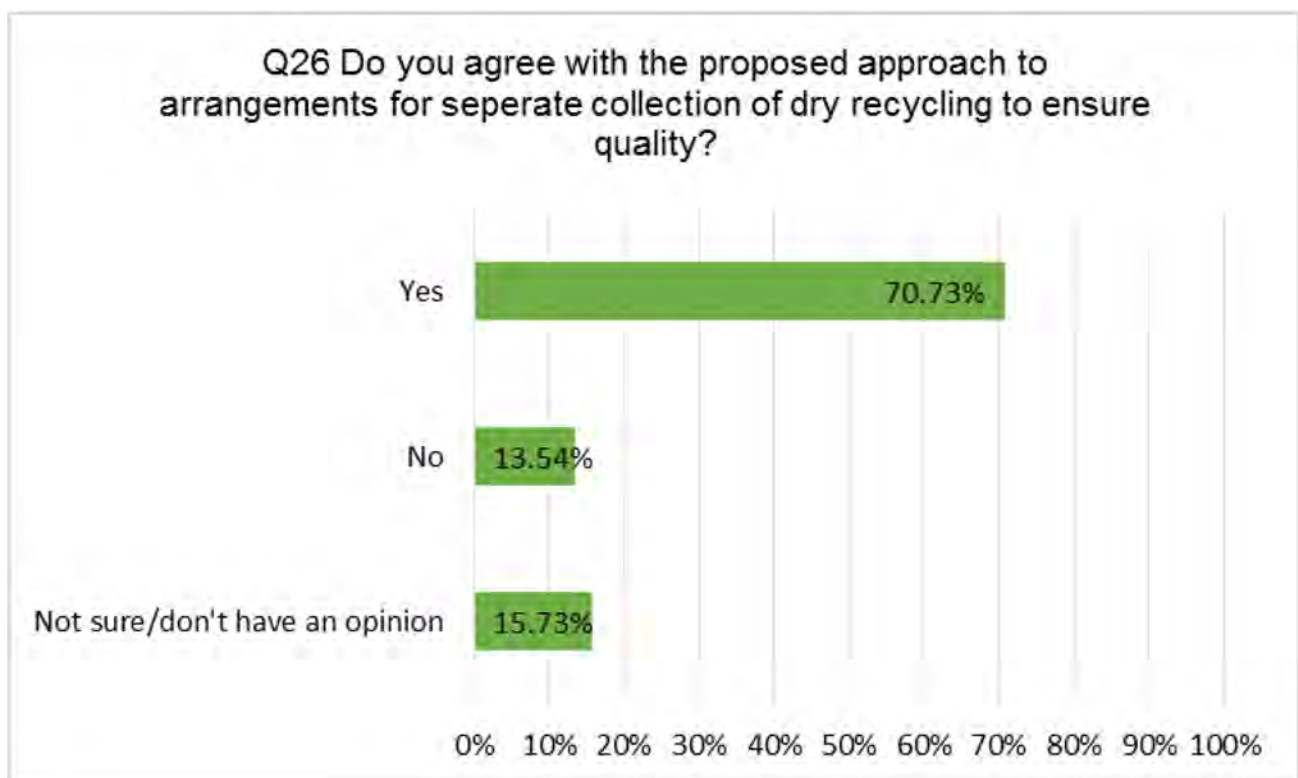


Figure 9 Analysis of 1182 individual responses to Q26

Figure 9 shows that 70.73% of respondents agreed with the proposed approach to arrangements for separate collection of dry recycling to ensure quality. 15.73% of respondents did not have a view and 13.54% of respondents thought that the proposed arrangements for separate collection of recycling were not necessary to ensure quality.

Question 27: What circumstances may prevent separate collection of paper, card, glass, metals and plastics? Please be as specific as possible and provide evidence.

A range of views were expressed. A large minority of respondents highlighted the availability of space for extra bins, both inside and outside properties, particularly for Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) and high-rise buildings.

A number of respondents stated that the measures could cause confusion amongst householders, causing non-compliance. A number of respondents mentioned the recycling of composite materials (where products are comprised of multiple inseparable material types) as another potential issue. Separate compartments for separate waste types within bins were proposed as an alternative to the potentially large number of bins.

A number of respondents stated that successful implementation of the proposal must be accompanied by education of the public on recycling. This included: education on the recyclability of different types of plastics; transparency on the end destination and end product(s) of waste; and ease of access to recycling information in multiple languages.

A number of respondents viewed the home-separation process as tedious, instead preferring that dry recycling is comingled and subsequently separated.

Other commonly mentioned barriers to successful implementation included:

- lack of suitable storage containers (weather-proof and animal-proof)
- provision of access to recycling for those that require special arrangements (e.g. the elderly and disabled)
- local authority infrastructure (e.g. vehicle numbers and design, onward processing capability, cost of communication to residents) the health and safety implications of separate collection. Glass was often cited as an example due to the noise pollution of separate glass collection and the weight of glass bins impacting the health and safety of waste collectors

Question 28: Do you have any other comments to make about Proposal 8?

A range of comments were given; some respondents preferred the mixed dry recycling system currently in place by many local authorities, whilst others appreciated the higher quality recyclable waste generated through separate collection of materials. A number of proposals were commonly offered to aid successful implementation:

- universally colour-coded recycling containers
- education (on the recyclability of different waste types, which waste should be washed and why separate collection is preferred to comingled collection)
- a simple and clear system
- communal recycling bins in areas with limited space.

Bin colour standardisation

Proposal 9: bin colour standardisation

Consultation questions on bin colour standardisation. Assuming that we progress with proposals for a core set of materials that must be collected for recycling, the government welcomes views on whether England should move to standardised waste container colours for those materials, together with residual waste, food and garden waste.

Question 29: Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

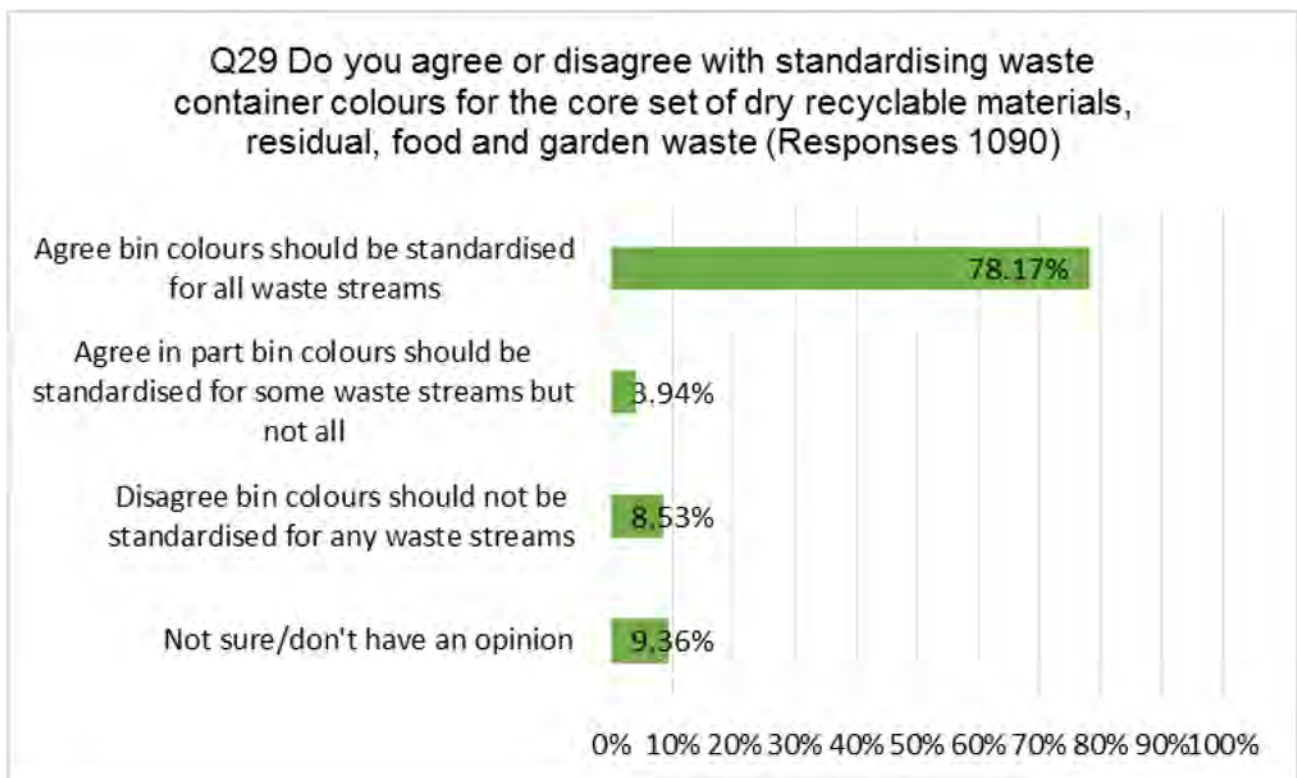


Figure 10 Analysis of 1090 individual responses to Q29

The majority view expressed amongst individuals (78.17%) was agreement that bin colours should be standardised for all waste streams. 8.53% of respondents disagreed that bin colours should not be standardised for any waste streams. 3.94% of respondents agreed that bin colours should be standardised for some waste streams but not all. 9.36% of respondents did not have an opinion or were not sure.

Question 30 and 31: There would be potential for significant costs from introducing standardised bin colours from a specific date. What views do you have on a phased approach or alternative ways to standardising the colours of containers for different materials?

Do you have any other comments about Proposal 9?

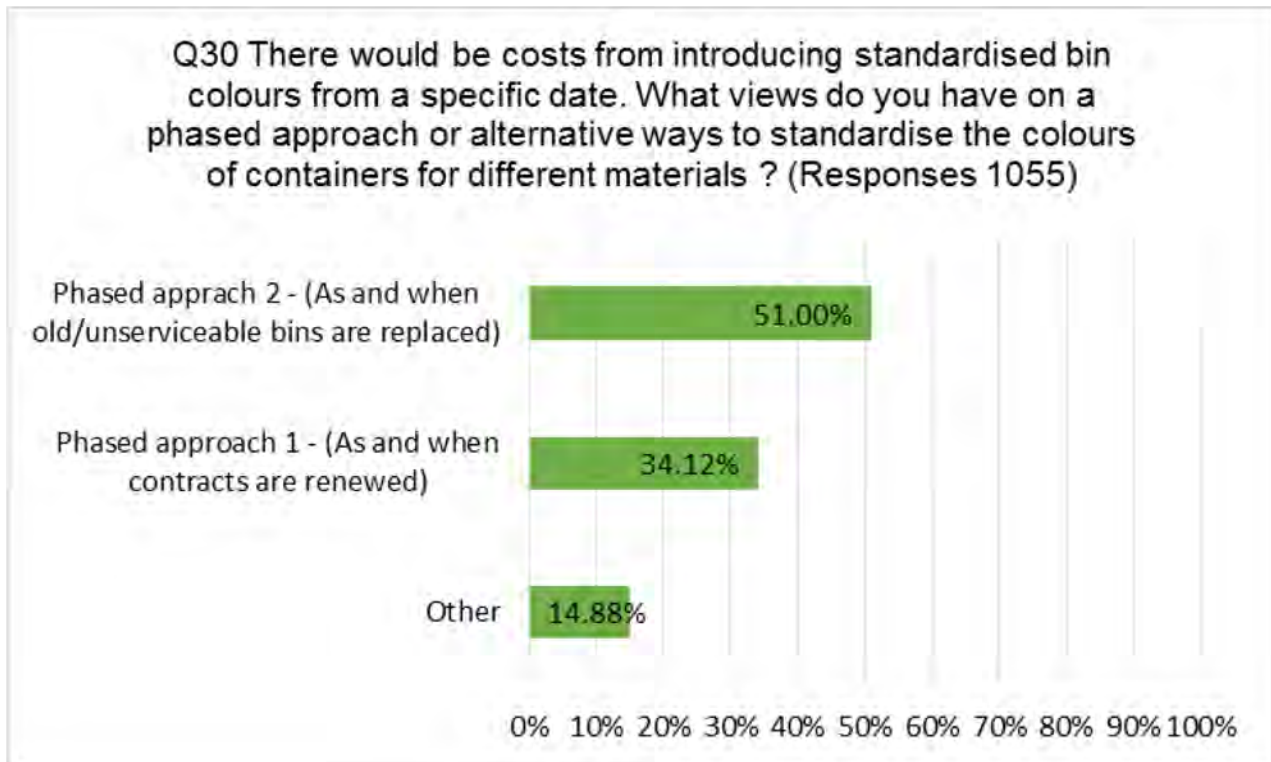


Figure 11 Analysis of 1055 individual responses to Q30

The majority of respondents favoured phased approach 2 (51%). Respondents commonly believed this to be the most cost effective and environmentally friendly approach. Of the respondents in favour of approach 1 (34.12%), a number believed that this approach would give the fastest implementation and would cause the least confusion. 14.88% had other views.

A number of alternatives to the proposals were offered:

- the most common suggestion was bin stickers as an interim solution to label bins correctly before they are replaced (alongside approach 1, 2 or a different approach)
- coloured bin lids were commonly offered as an alternative to replacing entire bins
- bins could be resprayed or covered in a film or wrap to minimise costs and waste
- a phased replacement approach by region to allow manufacturers to cope with high demand
- a combination of approaches 1 and 2 dependent on the best fit for local circumstances

- a cost-benefit analysis would be required to deduce which of options 1 and 2 would be the most effective.

A number of commonly further comments on the proposal included:

- large text and images would be required to cater for those who are colour blind and for those whose first language is not English
- funding would better be spent on other aspects of recycling
- a pilot scheme should be held, before being introduced nationwide
- bin colours should be chosen to minimise the cost to local authorities, as well as visual pollution.

Service standards

Proposal 10: statutory guidance on minimum service standards

We are proposing to prepare statutory guidance on minimum service standards to which local authorities will be required to have regard. We will consult separately on the detail of the guidance.

Question 32: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to publish statutory guidance?

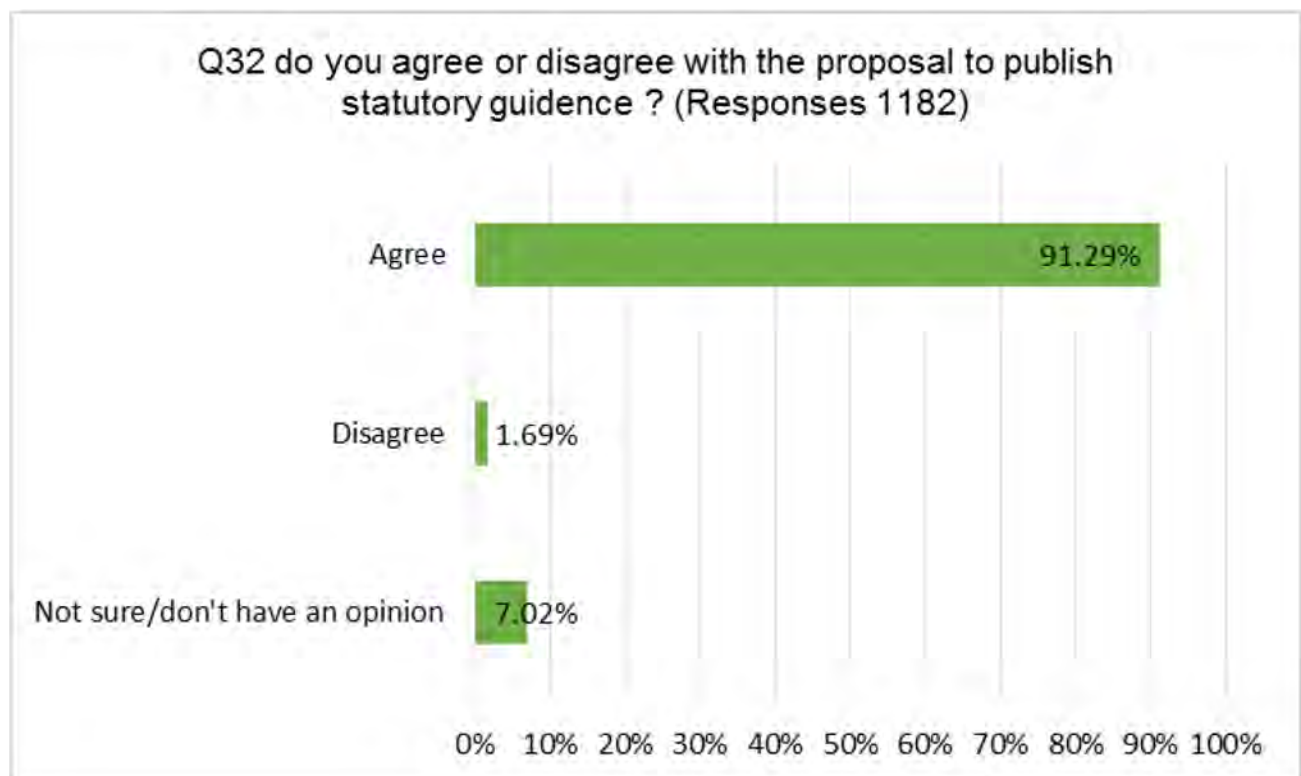


Figure 12 Analysis of 1182 individual responses to Q32

91.29% of individuals agreed with the proposal to publish statutory guidance, 1.69% disagreed and 7.02% were not sure or did not have an opinion.

Question 33: We propose to review the guidance every few years, revising it as required and then allowing sufficient lead-in time to accommodate the changes. Do you agree or disagree with this timescale?

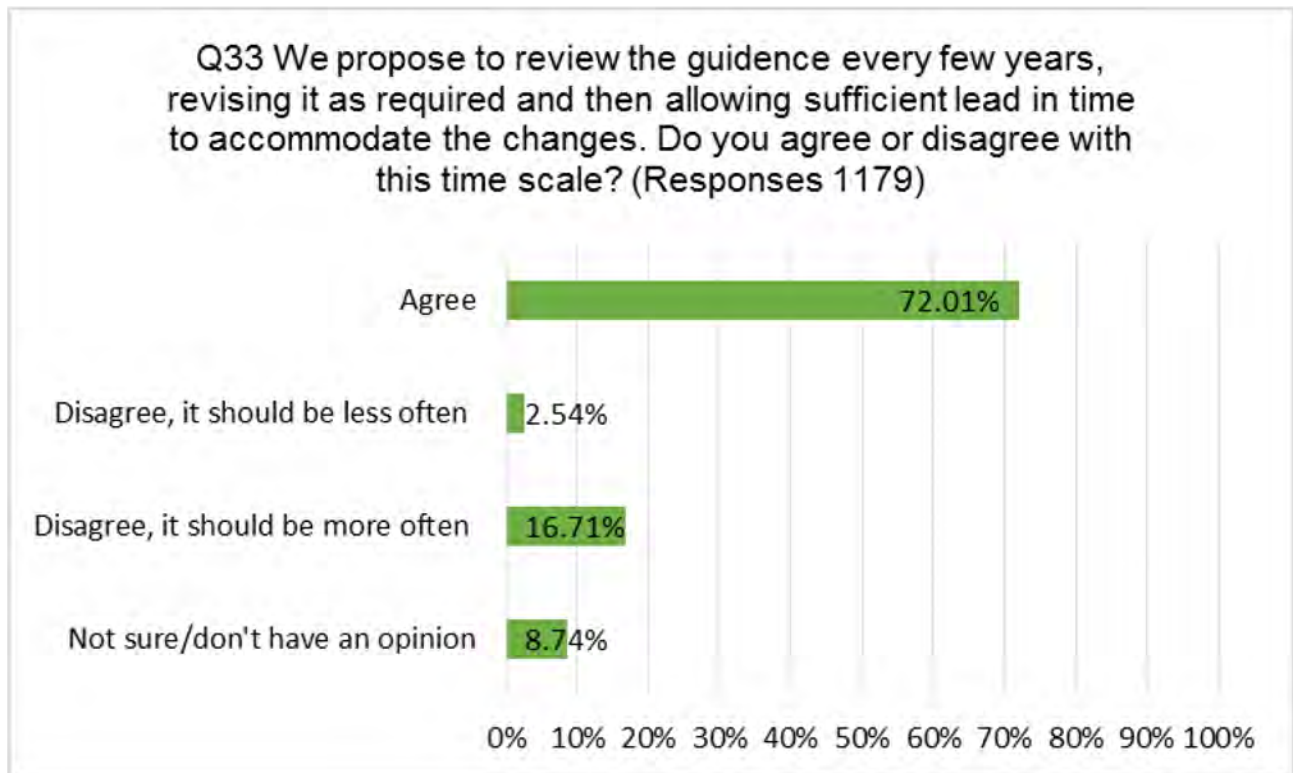


Figure 13 Analysis of 1179 individual responses to Q33

The majority of respondents (72.01%) agreed that guidance for these measures should be reviewed every few years, revising it as required. 16.71% of individuals believed that guidance should be reviewed more often and less than 2.54% disagreed with the proposal. 8.74% of respondents did not have an opinion or were not sure.

Question 34 and 35: Subject to further analysis and consultation we propose to use the guidance to set a minimum service standard for residual waste collection of at least every alternative week. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal? Do you have any other comments to make about Proposal 10?

Q34 Subject to further analysis and consultation we are proposing to use the guidance to set a minimum service standard for residual waste collection or at least every alternative week. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?
(Responses 1176)

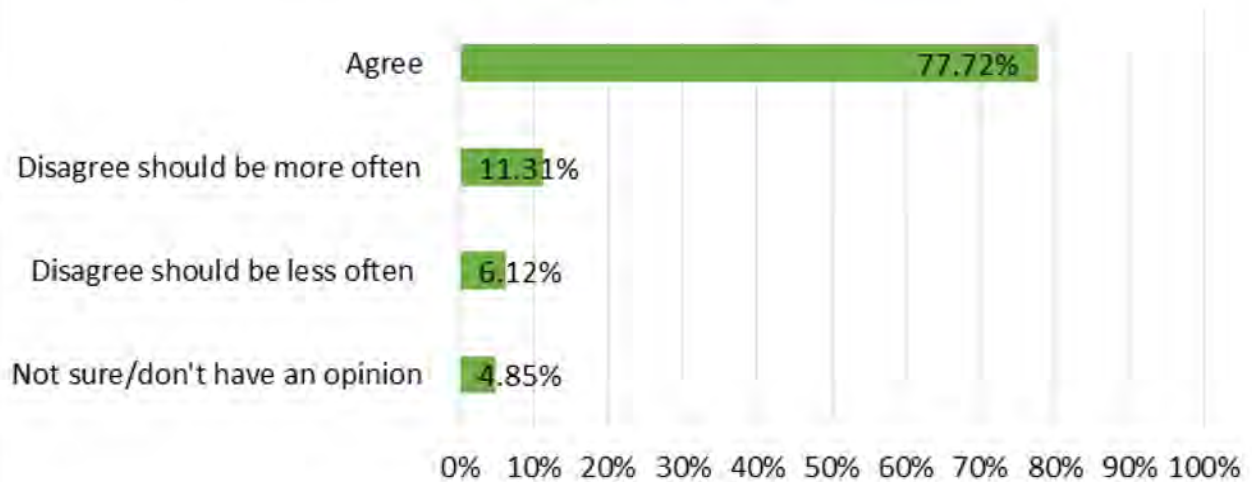


Figure 14 Analysis of 1176 individual responses to Q34

The majority of individuals (77.72%) agreed with minimum service standards, with residual waste collection being at least every alternative week. A number (11.31%) disagreed and believed it should be more often and 6.12% believed it should be less often. 4.85% of individual respondents were unsure, or expressed no opinion on the proposal.

There were a number of further common responses to proposal 10:

- concern about hygiene and bin storage
- concern about increased fly-tipping
- emphasis on the importance of a regulatory body to hold local authorities to account for breaching minimum standards
- transparency and accountability for local authorities that are not meeting minimum service standards
- recognition of local authorities that are going above and beyond to incentivise innovation and improvement instead of doing the minimum.

Communicating about recycling

Proposal 11: support for Recycle Now and WRAP

We will continue our support for Recycle Now and the tools produced by The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to help local authorities to communicate effectively on recycling.

Question 36: Do you have any comments to make about Proposal 11?

There were a range of comments to this proposal. A large minority of respondents stated that they did not have enough information to comment on the proposal. Of those that commented, a majority supported the work that WRAP currently do. A large minority agreed that communication was key and that an impartial resource available to all local authorities and householders was useful. Some individuals suggested that WRAP's tools and website could be streamlined, updated and made easier to navigate. Some individuals also suggested that more information campaigns from WRAP were needed, although a small number stated that funding for WRAP should go more directly to preventing waste. Finally, there were concerns about WRAP having a monopoly in this area, and some suggested that funding should also go to local recycling initiatives and gathering evidence of good practice at a local level.

Question 37: What information do householders and members of the public need to help them recycle better?

The majority of respondents to this question requested clearer information and offered a variety of suggestions on where clear information was needed. These included information on:

- the recyclability of different types of plastics
- what to do with recyclable materials before putting them into recycling bins, e.g. rinse them
- what happens to recycling materials after they've left households
- how to recycle the less commonly recycled items, such as shoes, razors, pens, phones, coffee pods, etc.
- how to reduce waste in the first place
- the benefits of recycling.

A large minority of respondents felt that reducing the amount of recycling materials in circulation, especially plastics, will help to reduce confusion. A small number of respondents felt that the Mobius recycling loop was misleading because not all local authorities collect materials labelled with the Mobius loop for recycling. A small number of respondents also felt that the "check locally" option should be removed.

Some respondents suggested innovative communication solutions. These included local authorities providing information with helpful graphics, information with council tax bills, video guides and communications warning against the dangers of not recycling (similar to those on cigarette packets). A small number of respondents suggested ongoing campaigns were needed, rather than just initial launch communications.

Proposal 12: transparency on end destinations of household recycling

We will work with local authorities and others to improve transparency of information available to householders on the end destination of household recycling.

Question 38: Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?

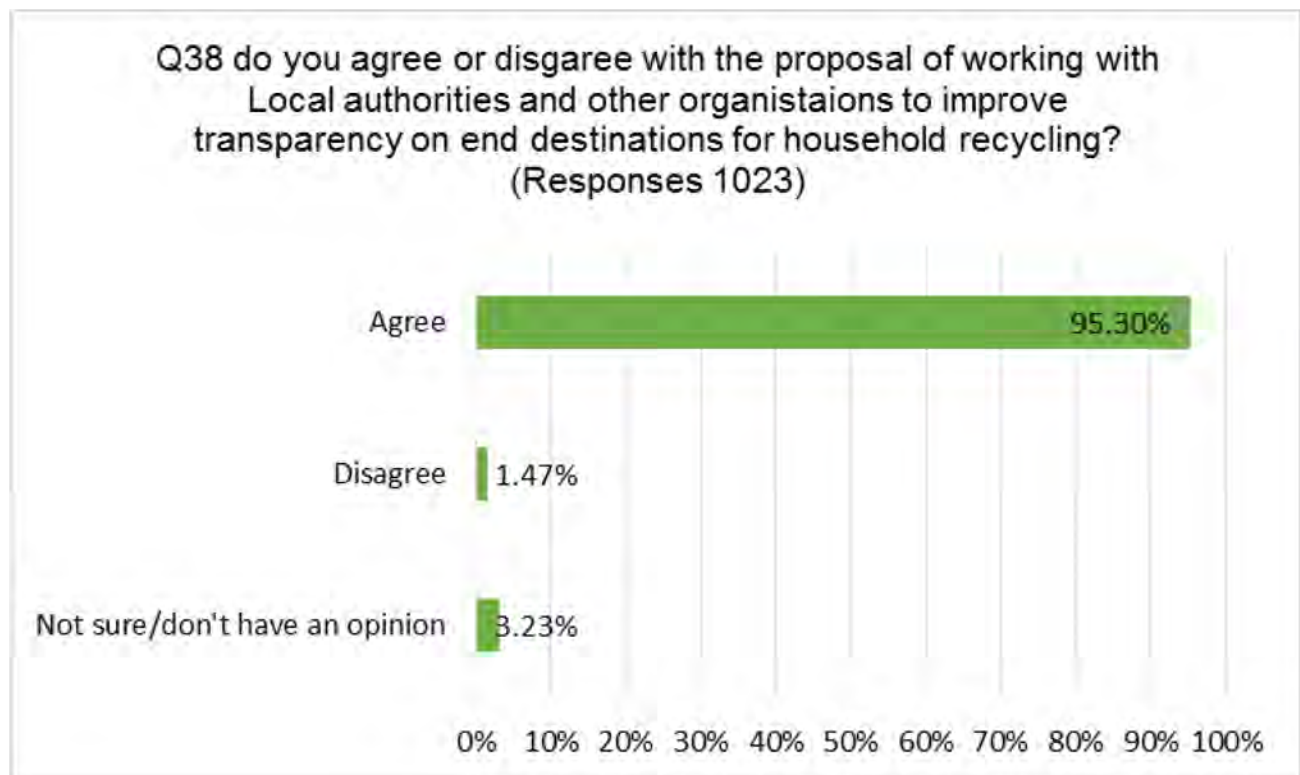


Figure 15 Analysis of 1023 individual responses to Q38

Predominantly 95.30% of individuals agreed with improving transparency regarding end destinations for household recycling. 1.47% disagreed and 3.23% were not sure or did not have an opinion.

Question 39: Do you have any other comments to make about proposal 12?

The predominant response amongst individuals (87%) was agreement with this proposal. Many suggested that greater transparency would motivate them to recycle more and

would also help to reassure the public that materials sent for recycling are recycled. A small number of respondents commented on the importance of education. Some respondents were in favour of central government supporting local government on transparency.

Other commonly views expressed by a number of individuals included tours of recycling facilities to help educate households, regular messages on bins and recycling prizes/ awards.

End markets

Proposal 13: stable markets for waste commodities

Government recognises that for the proposed waste collection and recycling measures to work effectively, stable markets for waste commodities need to be developed.

Government's view is that consistent collections by local authorities, with associated implementation of minimum service standards, and improved material quality, will give investors greater confidence that there will be a steady, sustained supply of quality recyclable materials to enable them to deliver required waste sorting and recycling infrastructure in the UK.

Question 40: Please use this space to briefly explain any comments you have on this proposal.

The majority of respondents agreed with the proposal. Many of these respondents also stated there is a need to encourage processing in the UK as opposed to relying on exporting waste.

Some suggested that to help achieve this goal:

- products should be made of one material only to reduce the likelihood of contamination and make recycling cheaper and easier
- the use of recycled plastic in all plastic products should be compulsory to make recycling more financially viable for the recycling industry and to provide stable markets.

Non-binding performance indicators

Proposal 14: development of non-binding performance indicators for local authorities

We propose developing a set of non-binding performance indicators for local authorities to use to monitor waste management and recycling and to highlight where services can be improved to deliver higher recycling and minimise waste. In addition to the headline household rate for the local authority we would propose 4 additional indicators covering yields of dry recycling, food waste for recycling, garden waste for recycling, and residual waste. We would also work with local authorities to develop these and other indicators to reflect areas such as quality or contamination levels and service delivery.

Question 41: Do you agree or disagree that introducing non-binding performance indicators is a good idea?

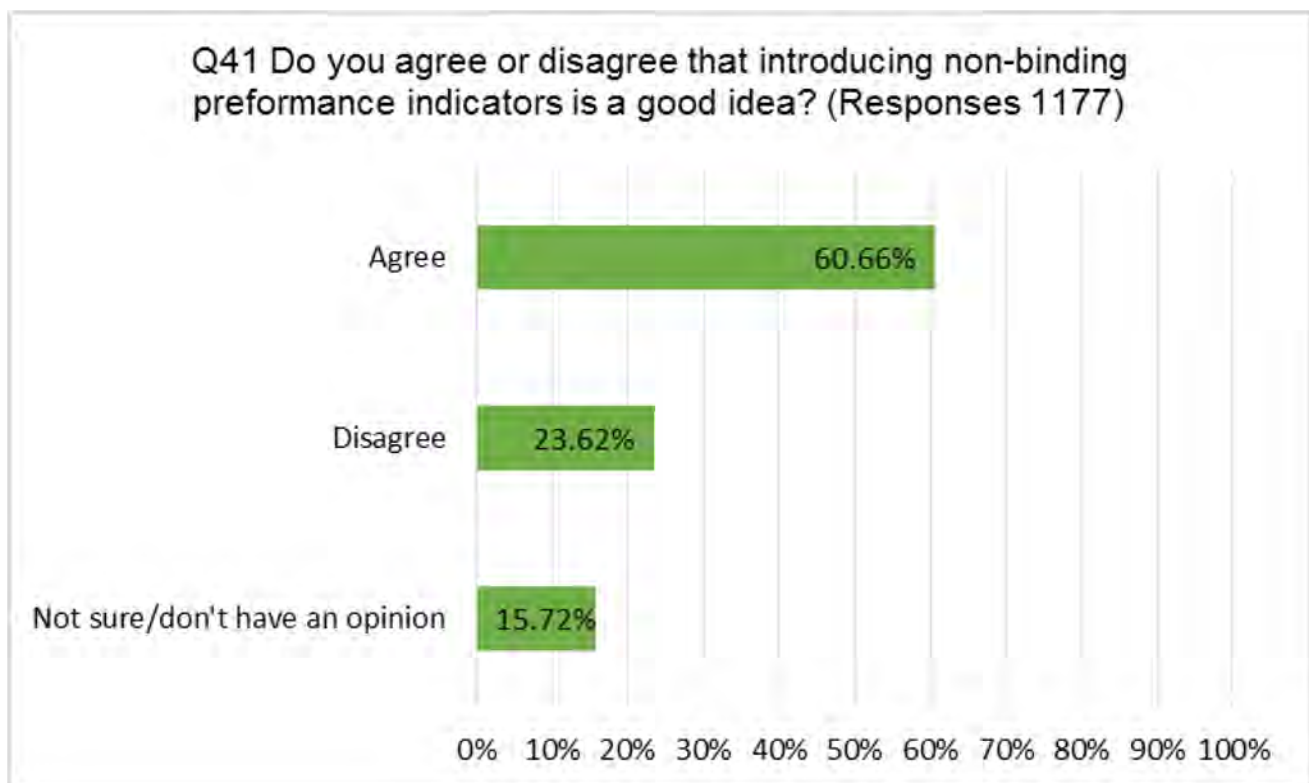


Figure 16 Analysis of 1177 individual responses to Q41

Figure 16 shows that the majority of respondents thought that introducing non-binding performance indicators was a good idea. 23.62% disagreed that non-binding performance indicators were a good idea. 15.72% of respondents did not have an opinion or were not sure.

Respondents were predominantly in favour of non-binding performance indicators with 60.66% agreeing that they were a good idea. Many of these respondents stated that indicators were useful in identifying areas of poor performance and ways to improve recycling. Some of those in favour of the proposal stated a need for simplicity (e.g. a focus on reductions in residual waste to show that waste has been prevented or diverted to other waste streams). Some respondents also stated that the indicators should be proportionate to the yields of waste that local authorities deal with. Some respondents commented that the indicators should take into account the local authorities' circumstances, such as the number of gardens and social deprivation rates. However, a small number of respondents suggested garden waste should not be included in the indicators.

23.62% of respondents believed that targets serve no purpose and would be an additional burden for local authorities. Some respondents who didn't support indicators also felt that it wasn't the role of central government to set targets for local government.

Some respondents felt that they did not know enough to answer this question.

Question 42 and 43: Do you agree or disagree that the proposed indicators are appropriate? Do you have any further comments to make about Proposal 14, for example, indicators currently in use that may be of assistance?

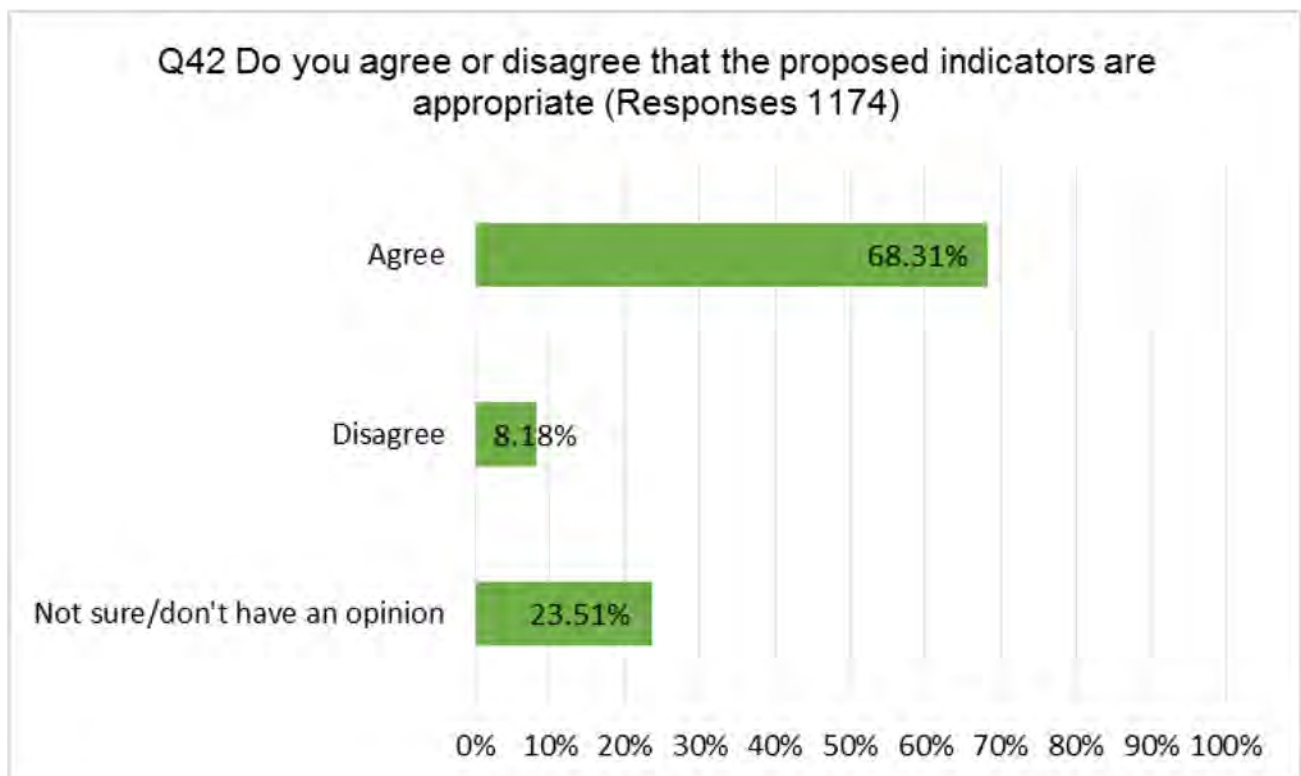


Figure 17 Analysis of 1174 individual responses to Q42

The majority of respondents were in favour of the proposed indicators (68.31%) and stated that any indicators should take waste reduction into consideration. 8.18% disagreed, some

raised concerns regarding indicators that prioritised weight as a metric. For example, some stated that any weight indicators would encourage the generation of more waste and undermine waste prevention. 23.51% of respondents were not sure or did not have an opinion on the appropriateness of indicators.

A number of respondents commonly suggested alternatives to weight-based metrics, including:

- contamination levels
- waste prevention
- scheme coverage, i.e. the number of households a local authority services
- customer satisfaction levels with the collection service
- reduction in packaging
- plastic waste reduction

Some individuals stated that any indicators should be linked to fines and that good practice should be recognised. Some individuals felt government funds could be better spent on resources on-the-ground and/or waste prevention, as opposed to investing in the development of statistics.

A number of responses stated that indicators should be accessible to the public and should be presented in a continuously updated, live format. Some individuals stated that central government should praise high performance and encourage best practice through government investment, if improvements are highlighted through indicators. A number of individuals did not know of any current indicators or how to locate them.

Alternatives to weight-based metrics

Proposal 15: alternatives to weight-based metrics

We will look at metrics that can sit alongside weight-based metrics and will work with stakeholders to develop these as set out in the Resources and Waste Strategy.

Question 44: Do you agree that alternatives to weight-based metrics should be developed to understand recycling performance?

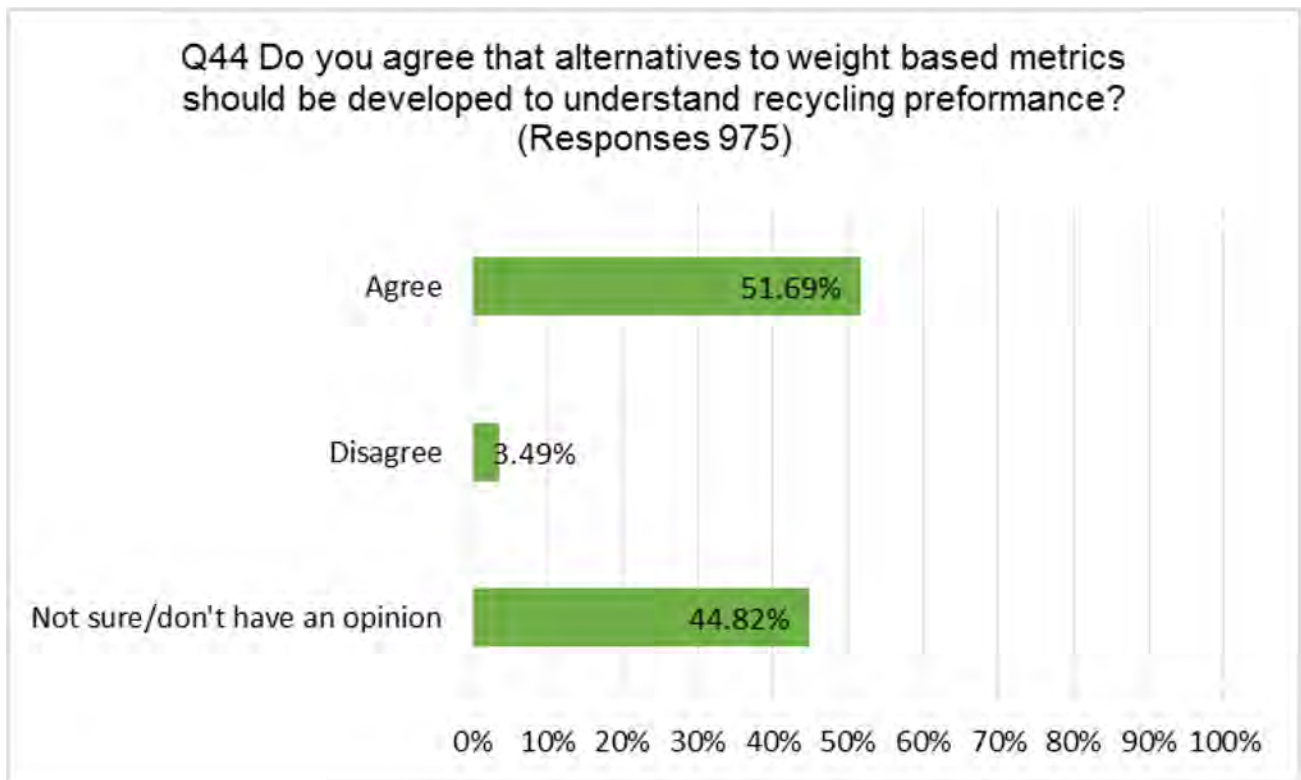


Figure 18 Analysis of 975 individual responses to Q44

A majority of respondents (51.69%) agreed that alternatives to weight-based metrics should be developed to understand recycling performance. However, a large minority (44.82%) were unsure or did not have an opinion on this. 3.49% of individuals disagreed with this proposal.

Question 45: Do you agree that these alternatives should sit alongside current weight-based metrics?

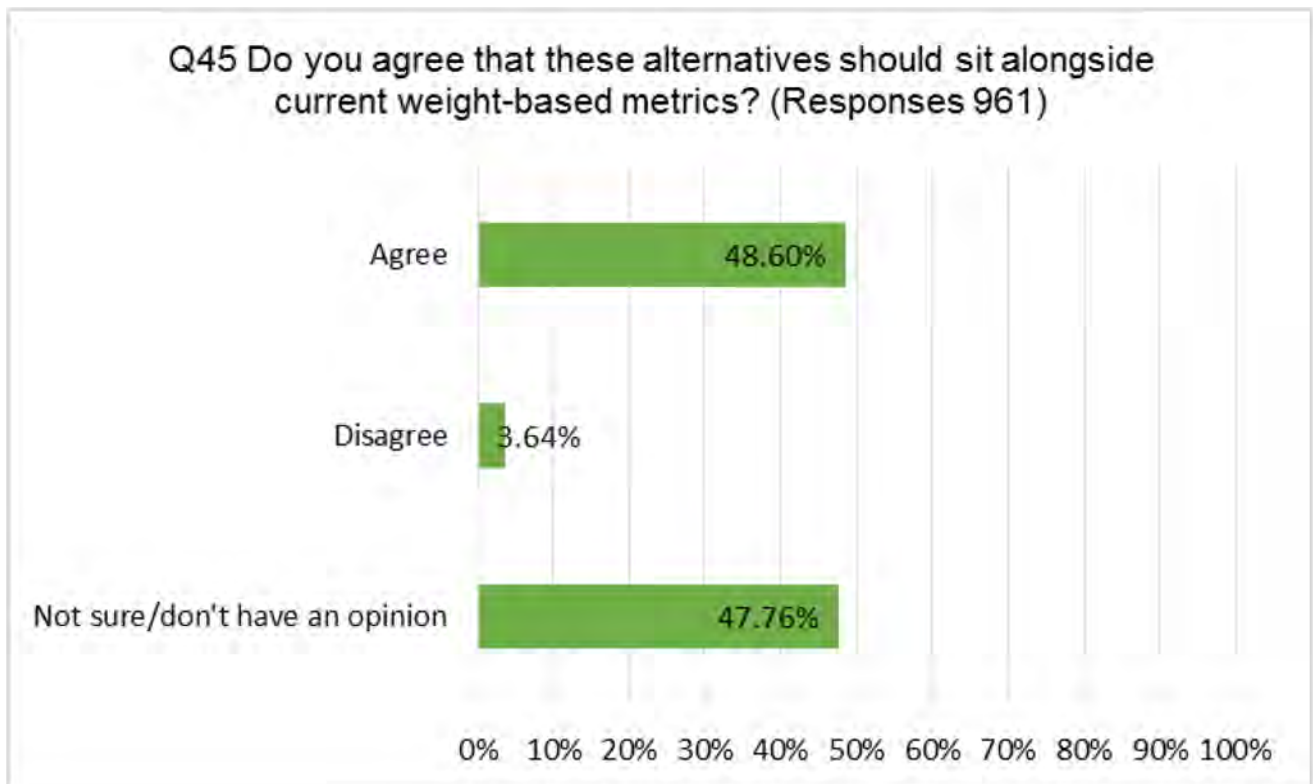


Figure 19 Analysis of 961 individual responses to Q45

A large minority of respondents (48.60%) agreed that alternatives should sit alongside current weight-based measures. However, a large minority (47.76%) were also unsure, or did not have an opinion on the proposal.

The predominant view favoured simplicity, with many individuals requesting easy-to-understand metrics to avoid spending more public funding on measuring recycling, rather than improving performance.

Question 46: What environmental, economic or social metrics should we consider developing as alternatives to weight-based metrics?

Respondents suggested a range of possible alternative metrics to weight for assessing the environmental, social and economic impact of recycling measures. A number of individuals commonly suggested the following alternatives:

- environmental footprint, including associated greenhouse gas emissions, air quality and wildlife levels
- participation rates (i.e. the number of households using a service for its intended use) as a measure of engagement and ease of use
- yields per household, for a more accurate reading of waste generation and change over time

- volume, to overcome the bias towards heavier waste
- material rejection rates or purchasing of recyclate on secondary materials markets, to more accurately measure the quantity of material recycled and the buoyancy of the secondary materials markets
- virgin material purchases
- end product equivalents (e.g. number of bottles containing recycled content)
- the amount of recyclable waste collected in residual waste streams
- littering rates

Joint working

Proposal 16: joint working

We want to support and enable greater collaboration and partnership working between authorities where this would accelerate the move to consistent collections and improve recycling and delivery of services.

Question 47: Do you agree that greater partnership working between authorities will lead to improved waste management and higher levels of recycling?

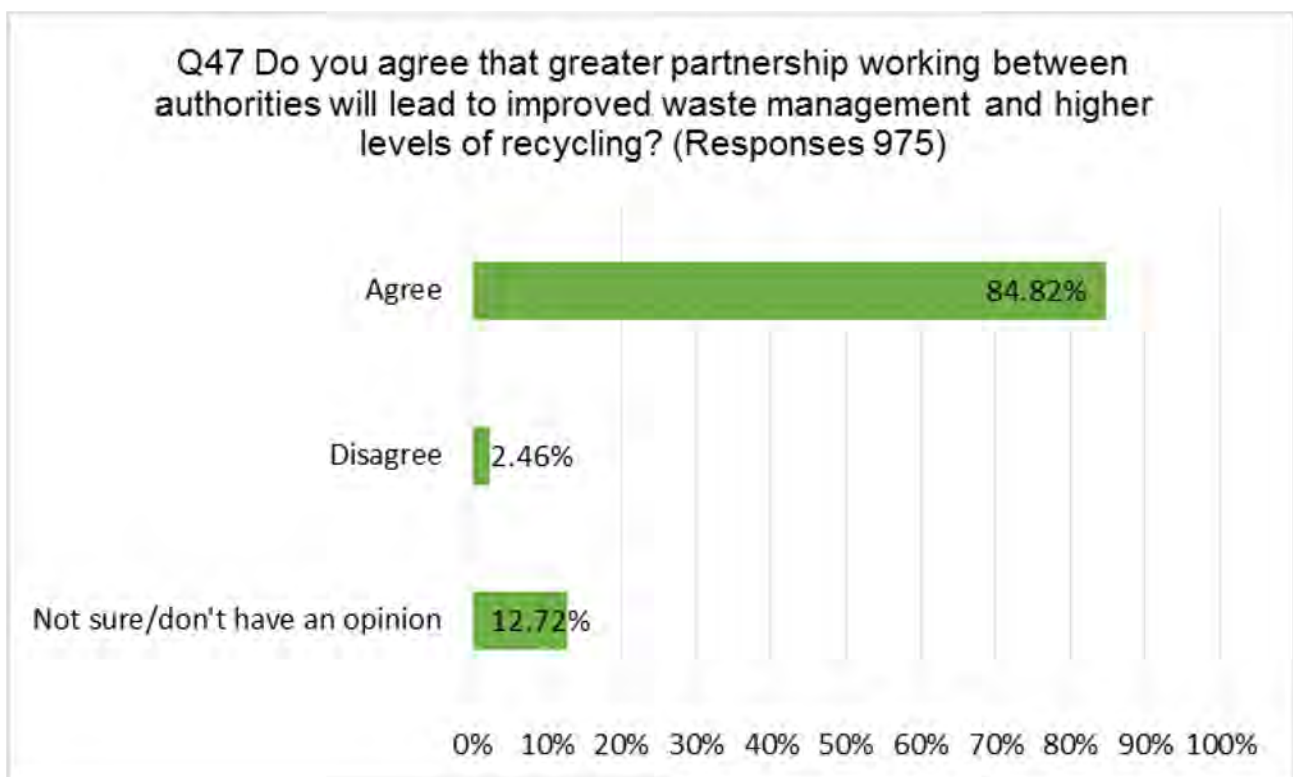


Figure 20 Analysis of 1182 individual responses to Q47

The predominant response was agreement with this proposal (84.82%), with a number of respondents noting the potential for improved services. A number of respondents stated that increased collaboration could have real benefits, but only if it improved services rather than simply reducing costs. 12.72% of respondents were not sure or did not have an opinion. 2.46% of respondents did not think that greater partnership working would lead to improved waste management services and higher levels of recycling.

A number of respondents suggested that implementation of the proposal could offer real benefits, but shouldn't be imposed on local authorities.

Of those that disagreed, a number of respondents suggested that the proposal could lead to unmanageable contracts and less efficient working.

Question 48: What are the key barriers to greater partnership working?

The most common reasons given by a number of respondents were:

- the lack of consistency in current recycling arrangements across local authorities
- cost: both the cost of establishing new arrangements, and the challenge of agreeing the distribution of costs
- political differences
- differences in infrastructure and how these determine the type of waste collected and the method of waste collection

Other commonly suggested barriers included:

- different demographics and population density
- existing contracts and issues with contractors
- different governance structures, e.g. unitary and two-tier
- local authorities not wanting to jeopardise recycling rates by working with lower-performing areas
- unwillingness of central government to devolve power
- firmly established work methods
- resource devoted to local projects and priorities
- a lack of knowledge and guidance on how to work collaboratively in this area; and
- erosion of sovereignty

A number of individuals also answered that they were not well placed to comment on this proposal.

Question 49 and 50: How might government help overcome these barriers? Do you have any other comments to make about Proposal 16?

A number of respondents suggested how central government could help overcome these barriers:

- the most common suggestion was increased funding, including rewarding effective collaboration
- varying degrees of legislation, guidance, targets and enforcement
- greater consistency in local recycling services and requirements
- help with drawing up collaborative contracts
- moving waste collection responsibility to county councils in two-tier systems

However, some respondents also objected to greater involvement of central government in local government operations.

Other suggestions included:

- more capacity and better distribution of waste management centres across the country
- accountability for underperformance
- reduction in party politics which hamper local partnership working between local authorities
- a national scheme that all local authorities sign up to

Business waste

Proposal 17: segregation of dry recyclable waste for businesses

We want to increase recycling from businesses and other organisations that produce municipal waste. We think the most effective way of doing this would be to legislate so that these establishments have to segregate their recyclable waste from residual waste so that it can be collected and recycled by waste operators.

Question 51: Do you agree or disagree that businesses, public bodies and other organisations that produce municipal waste should be required to separate dry recyclable material from residual waste so that it can be collected and recycled?

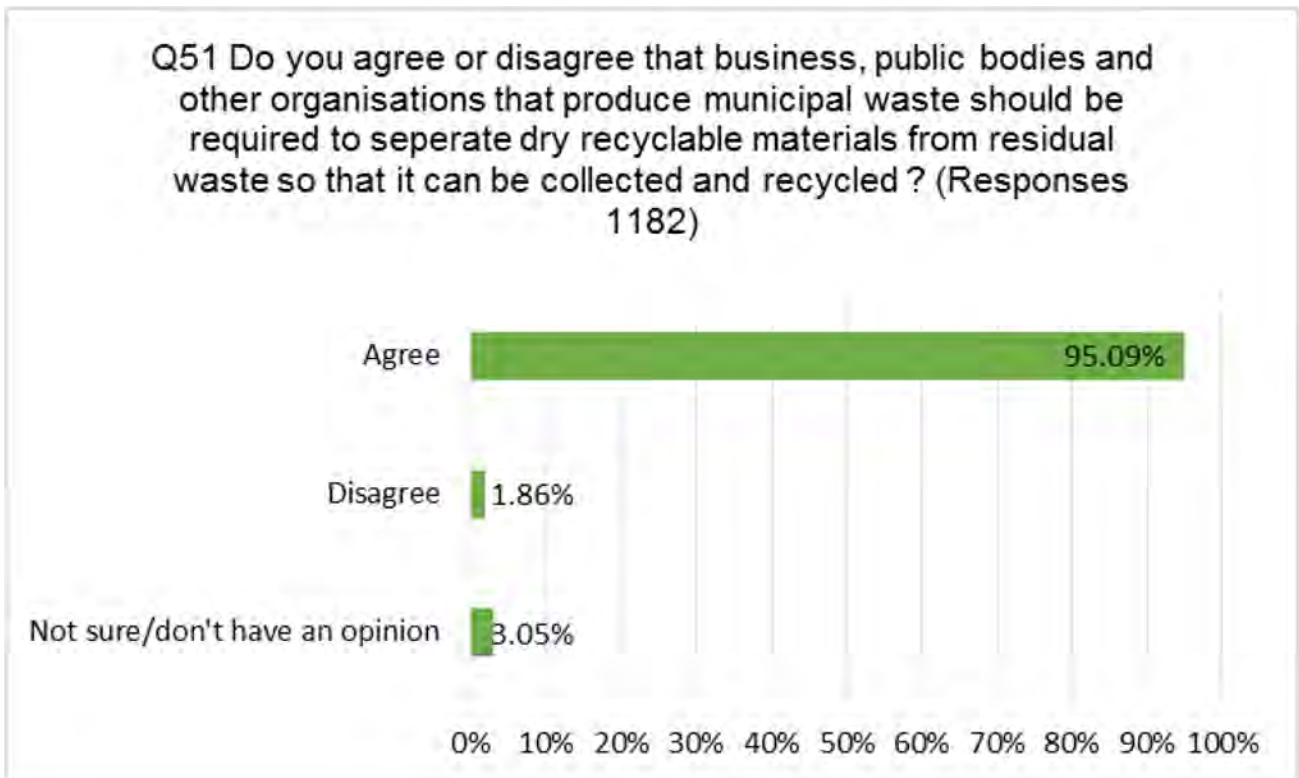


Figure 21 Analysis of 1182 individual responses to Q51

There was overwhelming support for this proposal, 95.09% of individuals agreed. Many responses expressed that legislating for separate recycling collections for businesses and other organisations is long overdue and that similar legislation for householders and business owners would help make recycling habitual.

1.86% of respondents disagreed with a small number of responses expressed concern over the ability of small businesses to adapt to legislative changes and that these businesses would therefore require further support. A very small number of responses considered this to be a local issue and/or that advice and support should be given, instead of enforcing legislation.

A number of other issues were commonly highlighted by respondents, including ensuring enough space for recycling bins; difficulty of enforcement; and the extra time/costs required for implementation.

3.05% of respondents did not have an opinion or were not sure.

Question 52: Which of the 3 options do you favour?

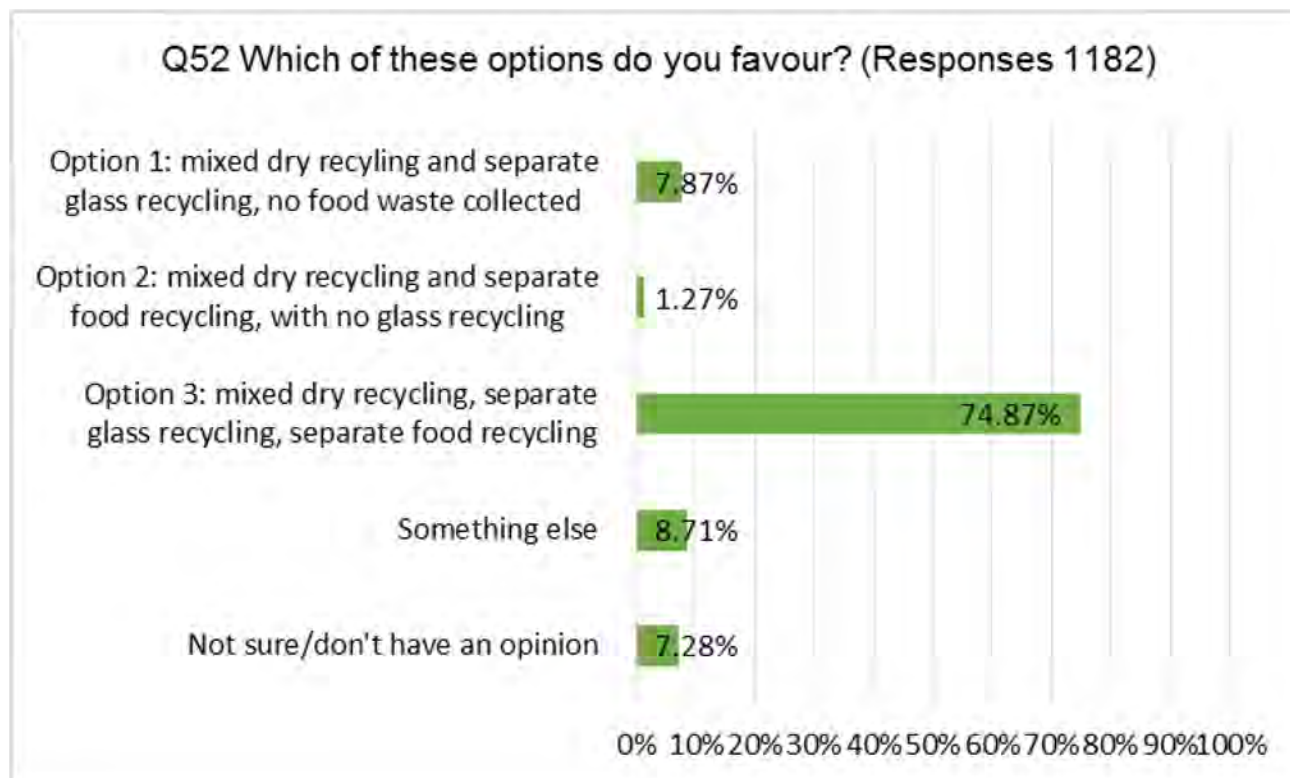


Figure 22 Analysis of 1182 individual responses to Q52

The majority of responses (74.87%) were in favour of mixed dry recycling, separate glass recycling and separate food waste recycling (Option 3). Many responses acknowledged that these recycling streams are most similar to those collected at households and that separation would minimise contamination between different recyclable materials. Some responses suggested option 3 with a pragmatic approach tailored to the business or organisations' waste management needs (e.g. no food waste collection if low amounts of food waste is produced).

A small number (7.87%) of responses highlighted that option 1 would be most appropriate to companies that do not produce food, or that food could be re-used through other methods (such as through composting, or working with charities). It was also suggested that option 1 could be a good initial solution to ease implementation, before moving to option 3 at a later date.

The most common response to "Something else" that 8.71% of individuals selected was the full separation of recyclable materials into individual streams (paper/card, plastic, glass, metal), as well as a separate food waste collection. This was often suggested to bring the arrangements for businesses and other organisations in line with the proposals for households, also minimising cross-contamination between different waste streams. Other common suggestions included the inclusion of glass with the other recyclable materials; a separate recyclable waste stream for paper/card; and the addition of separate garden waste and textile waste streams where appropriate.

7.28% of respondents were not sure or did not have an opinion.

Question 53: We would expect businesses to be able to segregate waste for recycling in all circumstances but we are interested in views on where this may not be practicable for technical, environmental or economic reasons.

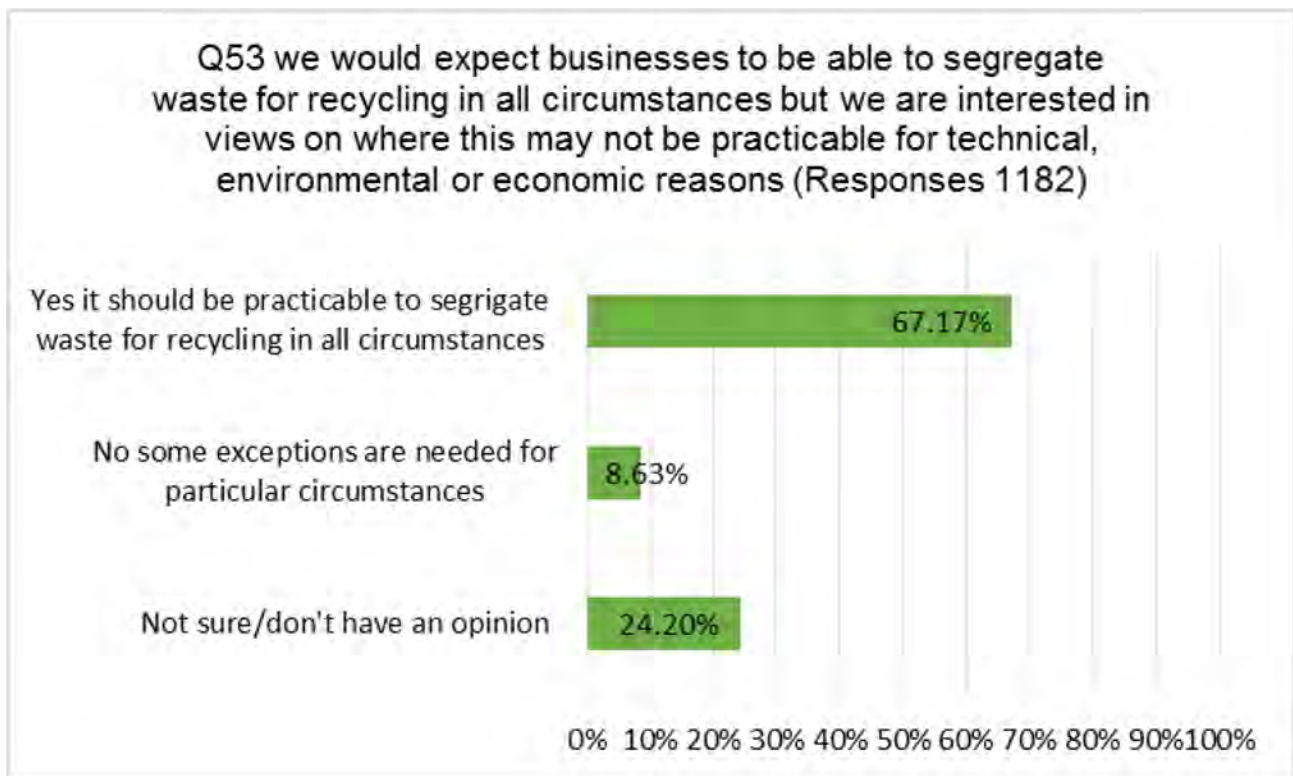


Figure 23 Analysis of 1182 individual responses to Q53

Predominantly the respondents agreed with this proposal (67.17%). As with the previous proposals, it was acknowledged that this proposal would help to increase consistency between businesses and households. A common theme throughout those in favour of the proposal was the need for clarity in the information provided by businesses to encourage recycling amongst employees.

Of the small number of responses against the proposal (8.63%), there were a number of common examples given of where it might not be technically, environmentally or economically practicable to segregate waste for recycling. These examples were:

- space (e.g. bin storage in built-up areas and access to recyclable bins in rural areas)
- contaminated waste (e.g. medical waste, or waste contaminated with chemicals)
- challenges faced by small businesses

A number of respondents said they were confused by this question (24.20%). Others stated that they agreed with the options set out, particularly financial incentives and the combination of household and business collections for small businesses.

Common additional proposals on this topic were: tax relief or reduction of business rates for strongly compliant businesses; free collections; provision of free recycling facilities, such as bins; and food donation schemes to reduce bio-waste collection costs.

Question 54: Should some businesses, public sector premises or other organisations be exempt from the requirement?

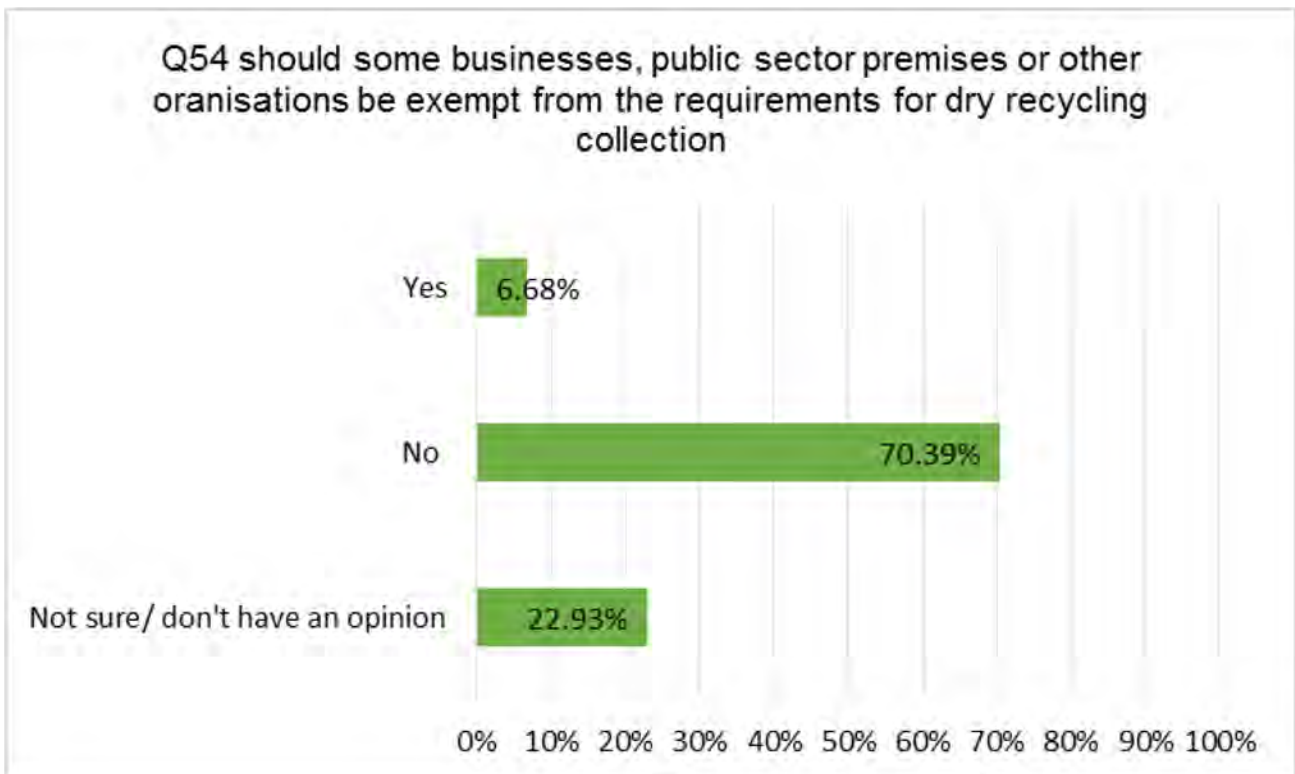


Figure 24 Analysis of 1182 individual responses to Q54

70.93% of individuals who responded to this question said no businesses, public sector premises or other organisations should be exempt from the requirements to separately collect dry recyclable materials. 6.68% said that some should be exempt and 22.03% did not know or did not have an opinion on this.

Respondents predominantly believe that there should be no exemptions to this requirement. Of those who agreed with the exemption, the most common suggested exemptions were for small businesses, charities and sites with contaminated waste (e.g. hospitals and nuclear sites). A small number of responses stated that further exemptions may be applicable due to other circumstances, such as business location.

Question 55: Do you have any other comments to make about Proposal 17? For example, do you think that there are alternatives to legislative measures that would be effective in increasing business recycling?

There were a variety of views expressed about this proposal. Many respondents stated that legislation is necessary to ensure that businesses are compliant with any new measures, with many also suggesting that there should be financial incentives to encourage compliance (e.g. tax reductions or subsidies), or penalties/fines to discourage non-compliance. Non-monetary incentives, such as 'green credentials', could also be offered to those businesses that show high compliance.

A small number of respondents suggested that increasing charges for municipal waste collection, or reducing recycling collection costs, would encourage compliance. Other common suggestions included: improving education, advice and guidelines around business recycling; co-collection of household and business waste; collection of further waste types where appropriate (e.g. waste electrical and electronic equipment); and the provision of acceptable waste collection services.

As with previous questions, a small number of respondents identified that cost effective and practical systems would be required to reduce the burden of legislative changes on SMEs, e.g. shared collection with other businesses in the area. A number of respondents also expressed concerns on the practical enforcement of this proposal and the burdens that this would place on other organisations/local authorities.

Proposal 18: segregation of food waste for businesses

Where a business, public body or other organisation produces sufficient quantities of food waste we propose to legislate for this to be separated from residual waste and arrangements made for it to be collected and recycled.

Question 56: Do you agree or disagree that businesses, public bodies or other organisations that produce sufficient quantities of food waste should be required to separate it from residual waste so that it can be collected and recycled?

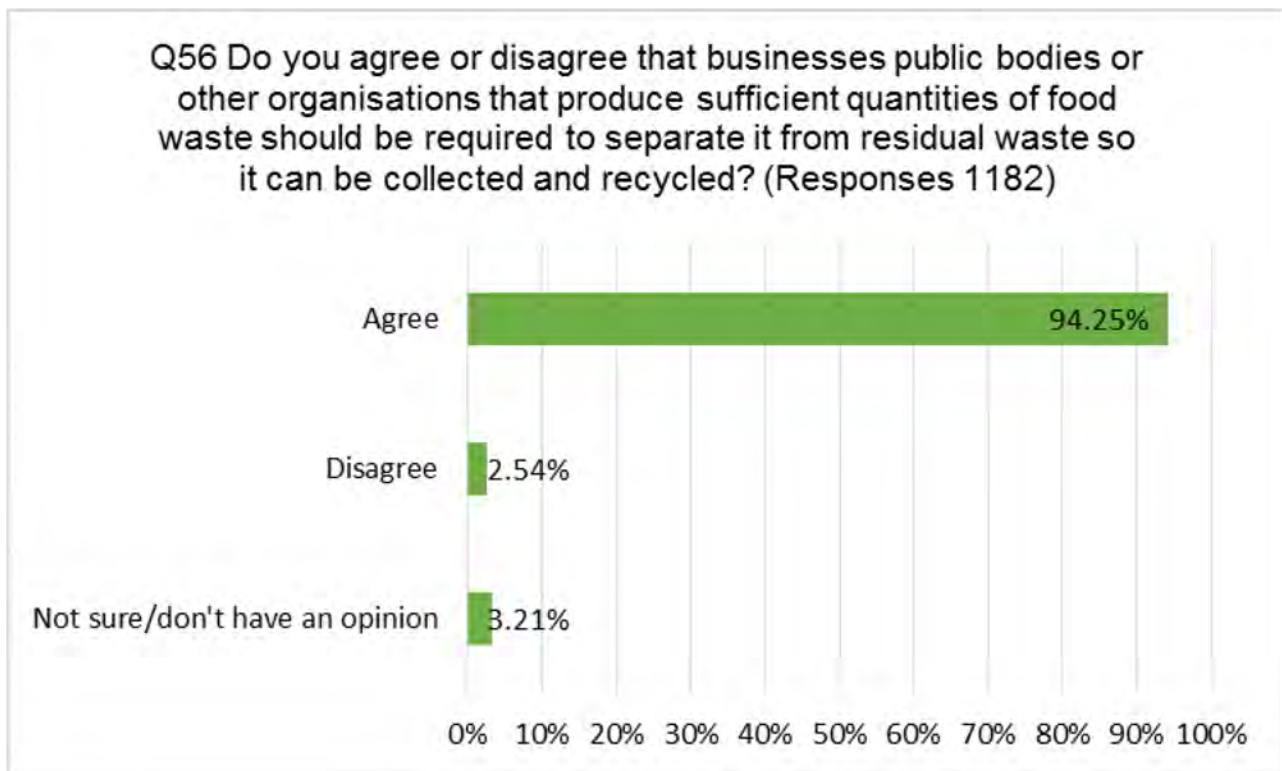


Figure 25 Analysis of 1182 individual responses to Q56

Respondents predominantly supported this proposal, with 94.25% agreeing that legislation should encourage consistency between businesses and households to normalise the recycling of food waste. Of those disagreeing with the proposal (2.54%), the majority stated that all food waste should be recycled, regardless of quantity. Other common reasons for disagreeing with the proposal were: logistical issues where the separation of food waste from other waste streams would not be possible; and sanitation issues related to the build-up of food waste. 3.21% of respondents did not have an opinion or were not sure.

Question 57: Do you agree or disagree that there should be a minimum threshold, by weight, for businesses public bodies or other organisations to be required to separate food waste for collection?

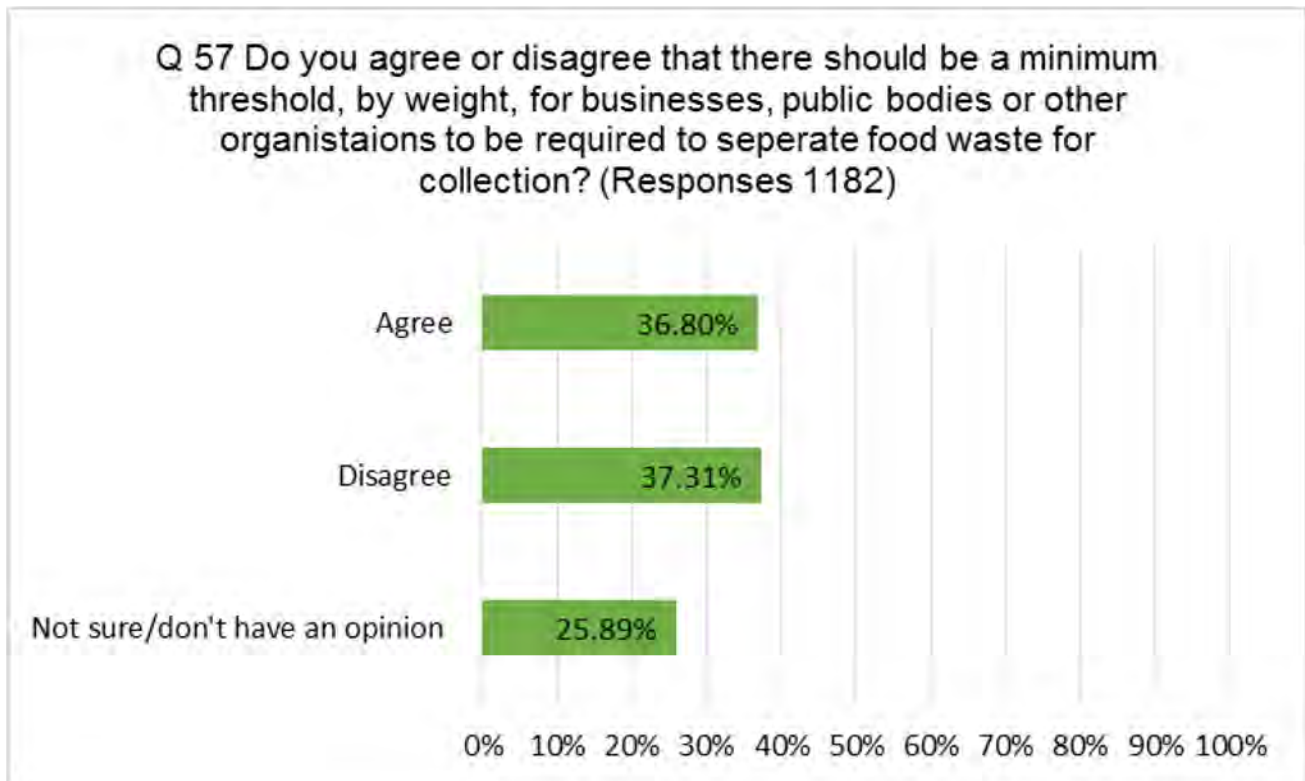


Figure 26 Analysis of 1182 individual responses to Q57

Of those agreeing (36.80%) with this proposal, many believed that the threshold in place should be low, with some suggesting that smaller waste volumes could be included in household recycling collections. Others suggested that the collection of small volumes of business food waste would not be technically, environmentally or economically practicable and support would be needed to help small- and medium-sized businesses to comply with the legislation.

Of the 37.31% that disagreed with the proposal, many held the view that this proposal contradicted the theme of consistency in the consultation. These individuals often stated that all available food waste should be recycled. Many also cited potential practical issues with enforcing the proposal, as well as concerns that compliance enforcement could fall to local authorities. There were also concerns raised that some businesses could try to “game the system” to ensure that they fall under the threshold. Further potential issues highlighted included whether to provide food waste collection for businesses that have higher than average food waste yields during certain periods of the year but which normally fall under the threshold.

25.89% of respondents were not sure or did not have an opinion.

Question 58: Do you have any views on how we should define ‘sufficient’ in terms of businesses producing ‘sufficient’ quantities of food waste to be deemed in scope of the regulations?

The majority of responses did not provide a suggestion for the proposal, with a small number suggesting evidence-based analysis and/or consultation with experts to find the ‘tipping point’ at which it no longer becomes technically, environmentally and/or economically practicable to collect recyclable waste from businesses on average.

Many of those who disagreed with Question 57 reaffirmed that any food waste is “sufficient” to be collected and that this proposal contradicts the theme of “consistency” in the consultation.

Other common suggestions included:

- a more nuanced weight-based approach that allows different thresholds for different businesses
- a pragmatic approach based on various factors (e.g. sector, business size, type, location, support offered by local authority)
- the average amount of waste produced by a residential property
- a metric based on the number of completely filled recycling bags
- a number of responses stated that a figure should have been provided by Defra, with the relevant evidence-based analysis to explain how Defra had reached this figure

Question 59: Do you have any views on how we should define ‘food-producing’ businesses?

A large minority of responses to this proposal suggested a broad, inclusive definition that covers all businesses and organisations that produce, prepare and sell foodstuffs. Many responses either stated that they did not have any views on the proposal, or that a definition should be provided based on consultation with experts and the business community.

Other respondents offered further explanations:

- a small number suggested that the definition should include food produced by both humans and animals; some suggested that this could be extended to any establishment that handles, packages, cooks, serves or processes food and/or drink products
- a number of suggestions stated that the definition could incorporate official classifications (e.g. LA licensing, SIC codes or FSA classifications).

Question 60: In addition to those businesses that produce below a threshold amount of food waste, should any other premises be exempt from the requirement?

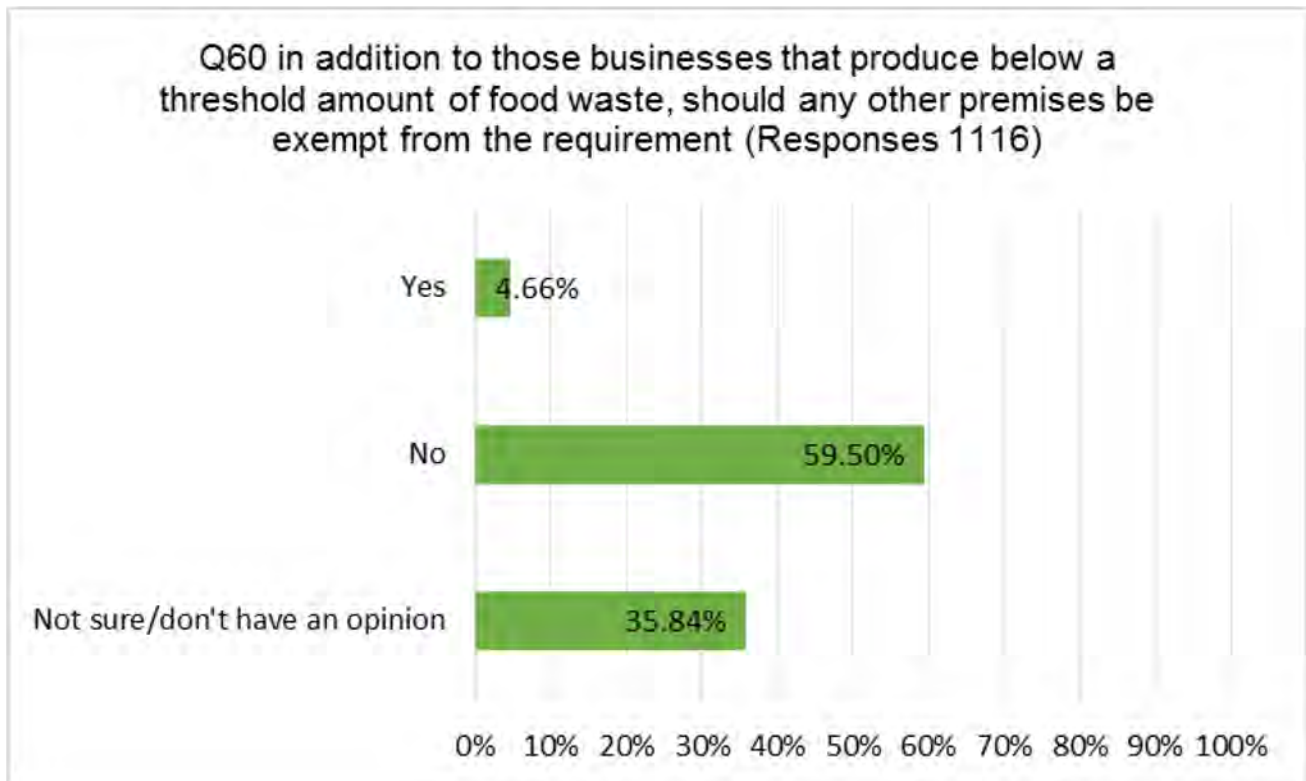


Figure 27 Analysis of 1116 individual responses to Q60

The majority of respondents were against exemptions to this requirements with 59.50% stating that no exemptions should be in place. 4.66% of respondents felt that some exemptions should be in place.

Of the small number in favour of exemptions, common suggestions were:

- charities and not-for-profit organisations
- certain religious groups that would be unable to handle food waste
- organisations where food-waste collection would present security and contamination issues (e.g. nuclear sites, hospitals)
- any food-producing businesses that have arrangements in place to re-use the food, instead of recycle it (e.g. redistribution of food)
- businesses in remote locations and/or businesses that produce small quantities of food waste
- businesses that engage in on-site composting.

35.84% of respondents were not sure or did not have an opinion.

Question 61: Do you have any other comments to make about Proposal 18?

Views from individuals on this proposal were mixed. A large minority who responded regarded this as a long overdue proposal that will bring business recycling in-line with household recycling.

Other comments on this proposal included:

- there is a need for more frequent food waste collections for businesses
- the measures may increase the dumping of waste to save on collection costs
- other processes may produce a more environmentally-beneficial outcome than food waste collections (e.g. composting, co-processing with sewage sludge)
- there should be consistency between the legislation of England and that of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Proposal 19: supporting businesses to reduce costs

If the proposals above are adopted, we would like to support businesses, public sector and other organisations to make the transition. In particular we would like to find ways to reduce the impact on small and micro businesses.

Question 62: What are your views on the options proposed to reduced costs?

Many did not know where to find the options mentioned in this question

Predominantly opinion was that small business could be unfairly disadvantaged as a result of the proposals. Many stated that they agreed with incentives for small and medium businesses and micro business. However, there were concerns about retailers passing the cost onto consumers and the opposition that may arise from householders whose council tax could increase to fund business rate cuts.

Options suggested to reduce cost included:

- imposing a ceiling for what waste operators can charge small to medium or micro business
- providing better training on sorting and best practice case studies such as sharing recycling collection between businesses
- making it more costly to collect black bin waste than recycling
- giving business sufficient time to prepare for the changes
- 5-10% off business rates for the first year dependant on the type of business and the difficulty of waste separation
- support to help business choose less packaging and support for decreasing wasteful practices

- Incentives for sustainability and waste prevention in business models

On the other hand some individuals were clear that the financial burdens did not outweigh the importance of increasing recycling and reuse, and they did not think businesses should be treated differently to households.

Question 63: Are there other ways to reduce the cost burden that we have overlooked?

Individuals commented that other ways to reduce cost would include:

- pooling efforts in collecting food waste between multiple adjacent businesses
- funding and sponsorship from tech firms engaging in development in the fields of recycling, the environment and waste disposal
- ensuring that micro businesses are treated the same as households (i.e. free collections)
- reducing waste in the first place and prioritising reuse
- centralising recycling centres
- halting charges for recycling collections for business and only charging for residual waste to encourage business to find ways to reduce costs by recycling more
- a strategy to save money on transport such as electric vehicles with solar charging. Plot routes using software which saves time and therefore cost similar to optimisation used by UPS and other delivery services

Question 64: Do you have any other views on how we can support businesses and other organisations to make the transition to improved recycling arrangements?

Other comments from individuals regarding support for business and other organisations included:

- strong enforcement: naming and shaming, instant penalties and mandatory timescales for all
- basing policy on best practice seen in other countries
- a deposit scheme alongside consistency to maximise material capture
- positive publicity around business recycling.

Proposal 20: data reporting for businesses

As part of implementing consistency, we will work with waste producers and waste collectors in the non-household municipal sectors to improve reporting and data capture on 62 waste and recycling performance of businesses and other organisations. Any requirements will be subject to consultation.

Question 65: Do you have any views on whether businesses and other organisations should be required to report data on their waste recycling performance?

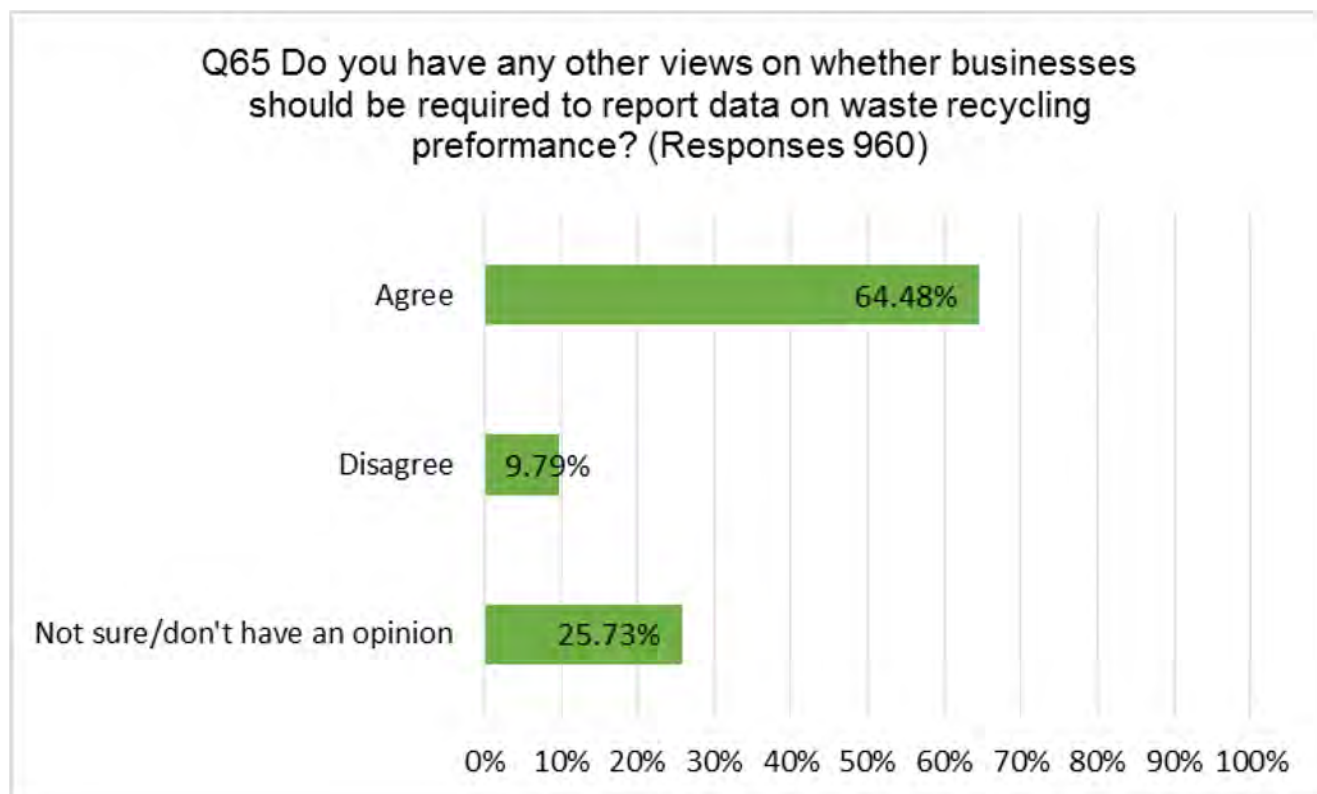


Figure 28 Analysis of 960 individual responses to Q65

Question 66: Do you have any other comment on Proposal 20?

Figure 28 shows that 64.48% of respondents agreed that businesses and other organisations should be required to report data on waste recycling. 9.79% of respondents disagreed with this proposal. 25.73% were not sure or did not have an opinion.

A majority of respondents (64.48%) agreed with this proposal, with a number expressing strongly that businesses should be accountable in the same way that local authorities are. Some respondents also felt that this measure would help businesses to improve their performance. Also, those who did agree with the proposal felt that any reporting of data had to be straightforward, and acknowledged that it would be a burden for companies. A small number of comments centred on the need for food handling/producing businesses to provide data. There were some suggestions for a waste inspectorate and a few respondents felt that the transparency of data would help consumers, because they'd be free to choose companies that had good recycling credentials.

Some respondents also felt that the measure was unnecessary and would create additional bureaucracy, particularly for smaller businesses. Those who disagreed with the measure also felt that if recycling was mandatory the amount of recycling would increase,

thereby removing the need for data. A large minority of respondents commented that it would not be practical for some very small businesses to report their business waste data.

Some respondents offered some innovative solutions to help with the transparency of data, including providing free advisers to businesses. A few respondents expressed support for recycling ratings akin to food hygiene ratings, which businesses could display on their premises.