



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House  
Area 4a  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

T: 03459 33 55 77  
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2019/02003  
25 February 2019

Dear [Redacted]

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Contamination of recycling by food or general waste**

Thank you for your request for information of 29 January 2019 about contamination of recycling by food or general waste. 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).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below.

*"I would like to request up to date information regarding contamination of recycling by food or general waste in the UK, and Manchester specifically if possible, from the past 3/4 years.*

*Similar to this document available online but up to date:*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/306945/RFI6442\\_contamination\\_by\\_food\\_waste.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/306945/RFI6442_contamination_by_food_waste.pdf)

The information that you have requested on tonnages of waste collected is available via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>

The local authority waste data set published here in ODS format contains metric tonnage figures. Please see the third file down titled "Local authority collected waste generation from April 2000 to March 2018 (England and regions) and local authority data April 2017 to March 2018 worksheet "Table 1" for figures for each Local authority. Please see the table heading "Local authority collected waste, sent for recycling/composting/reuse (tonnes)". Please note the data in the column headed "Local authority collected estimated rejects (tonnes)", includes rejects from recycling extracted from (but then subsequently rejected) the residual waste stream.



As the information on tonnages of waste collected is already publicly available and easily accessible to you in another form or format, regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIRs exempts Defra from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.

The more detailed information you requested on tonnage of waste collected for recycling but then but then subsequently sent for incineration or to landfill is also available in the public domain via the following link:

<https://data.gov.uk/dataset/0e0c12d8-24f6-461f-b4bc-f6d6a5bf2de5/wastedataflow-local-authority-waste-management>

Please refer to the Q100 datasets.

Additionally, under the duty to provide advice and assistance in regulation 9(1) of the EIRs we have simplified that information to assist with this specific part of the request. Please see Annex C attached.

We attach an annex 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

[Redacted]

**Information Rights Team**  
[InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@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 or logos) 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 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Nick Teall, Head of Information Rights, Area 4a, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: [InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@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's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

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