



Further to your information request FOI/EIR 25/26-148, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

Please find a Freedom of Information request below submitted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This request relates to district-level waste collection and recycling data, including plastic and aluminium waste, contamination rates and kerbside/non-kerbside collection methods. Within this it also covers how you are preparing for the Deposit Return Scheme starting in 2027.

The questions have been limited to five in total to avoid exceeding cost and time limits under the Act.

Please find the questions below:

1. Contractors

Please can you provide a list of all contractors of facilities you use for collection of waste and recycling including:

- **Kerbside collections (e.g. plastic waste dry mixed recycling and aluminium cans;**
- **Non-Kerbside collections – e.g. street bins, bins in public buildings, on-the-go waste.**

For each can you include:

- **Services provided;**
- **Contract start and end dates;**
- **Annual or total contract value;**
- **Fee structures – whether they are fixed or variable rates, contamination charges/revenue sharing arrangements etc;**
- **Performance indicators or incentives used including recycling targets, contamination thresholds and any associated bonuses/penalties;**
- **Where possible can the information be broken down by plastic, aluminium, dry mixed recycling;**
- **Collection stream – Kerbside or non Kerbside.**

2. Waste Volumes and Collection Methods

Please can you provide the annual tonnages collected (2021/22–2023/2024) of:

- **Plastic bottles — including an estimate of the percentage or volume of PET plastic, where available;**
- **Other plastics;**
- **Dry mixed recycling;**
- **Aluminium cans.**

If tonnages are estimated rather than measured, please indicate the method of estimation.

Can you indicate whether these were collected separately or as part of a co-mingled waste stream. Where possible, can you provide an estimate of the PET plastic content.

3. Contamination and Waste Treatment Outcomes 2021/22 to 2023/2024

Please can you provide annual contamination rates (gross tonnage and percentage) for plastic bottles, other plastics, dry mixed recycling, and aluminium cans between 2021/22 and 2023/2024 by contractor/facility. If tonnages are estimated rather than measured, please indicate the method of estimation.

Please also provide the total annual amount (gross and %) of:

- **Plastic waste recycled vs. incinerated;**

- **Aluminium waste recycled vs. incinerated;**
- **All council-collected waste recycled vs. incinerated.**

4. Kerbside and Non Kerbside collections

Please describe your role in kerbside and non-kerbside waste and recycling collections.

For kerbside collections, please include:

- **Whether materials (e.g. plastics, aluminium) are collected separately or co-mingled;**
- **Frequency and method of collection;**
- **Any recent or planned changes in response to DRS or EPR;**
- **If on-the-go (public space) bins are part of the system, please include them in your description and identify them separately.**

For non-kerbside collections (e.g. street bins or bins in public buildings), include:

- **Whether separate contracts exist;**
- **Materials collected, including plastic and aluminium;**
- **Volumes (2021/2022 – 2023/2024), with percentages and volumes for plastics and aluminium;**

Contract terms and fees structures with contractors.

If tonnages are estimated, please state the method used.

5. DRS and EPR Preparations

Please can you provide details of any work undertaken in preparation for the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). This may include infrastructure investments, installation of reverse vending machines, operational changes, pilot projects, modelling, or public engagement activities.

Response:

1. Contractors

Please can you provide a list of all contractors of facilities you use for collection of waste and recycling including:

- Kerbside collections (e.g. plastic waste dry mixed recycling and aluminium cans. **East Cambs Street Scene Ltd (ECSS)**
- Non-Kerbside collections – e.g. street bins, bins in public buildings, on-the-go waste. **ECSS**

For each can you include:

- Services provided; **Kerbside collection of residual waste, dry mixed recycling, and garden waste**
- Contract start and end dates; **ECSS are a Trading Company set up in April 2018, and the Memorandum of Agreement ends 31/3/26**
- Annual or total contract value; **£5m (annual)**
- Fee structures – whether they are fixed or variable rates, contamination charges/revenue sharing arrangements etc; **Fixed**
- Performance indicators or incentives used including recycling targets, contamination thresholds and any associated bonuses/penalties; **No**
- Where possible can the information be broken down by plastic, aluminium, dry mixed recycling; **This information is not managed under this contract as you have requested information on the collection of waste and recycling**
- Collection stream – Kerbside or non Kerbside. **Kerbside**

2. Waste Volumes and Collection Methods

Please can you provide the annual tonnages collected (2021/22–2023/2024) of:

- Plastic bottles — including an estimate of the percentage or volume of PET plastic, where available;
- Other plastics;

- Dry mixed recycling;
- Aluminium cans.

If tonnages are estimated rather than measured, please indicate the method of estimation. Can you indicate whether these were collected separately or as part of a co-mingled waste stream. Where possible, can you provide an estimate of the PET plastic content.

This information is available via other means at: [Register for public access](#)

Information entered by local authorities on waste and recycling tonnages collected and disposed of is available in WasteDataFlow and can be downloaded by the general public. Questions are completed quarterly (annually in Scotland) and the data are made available to the public once this information has been validated by the WasteDataFlow team.

3. Contamination and Waste Treatment Outcomes 2021/22 to 2023/2024

Please can you provide annual contamination rates (gross tonnage and percentage) for plastic bottles, other plastics, dry mixed recycling, and aluminium cans between 2021/22 and 2023/2024 by contractor/facility. If tonnages are estimated rather than measured, please indicate the method of estimation. Please also provide the total annual amount (gross and %) of:

- Plastic waste recycled vs. incinerated;
- Aluminium waste recycled vs. incinerated;
- All council-collected waste recycled vs. incinerated.

This information is available via other means at: [Register for public access](#)

Information entered by local authorities on waste and recycling tonnages collected and disposed of is available in WasteDataFlow and can be downloaded by the general public. Questions are completed quarterly (annually in Scotland) and the data are made available to the public once this information has been validated by the WasteDataFlow team.

4. Kerbside and Non Kerbside collections

Please describe your role in kerbside and non-kerbside waste and recycling collections. For kerbside collections, please include:

- Whether materials (e.g. plastics, aluminium) are collected separately or co-mingled; - **This information is available via other means at: www.eastcambs.gov.uk**

- Frequency and method of collection; - **This information is available via other means at: www.eastcambs.gov.uk**

- Any recent or planned changes in response to DRS or EPR; **No**

- If on-the-go (public space) bins are part of the system, please include them in your description and identify them separately.

For non-kerbside collections (e.g. street bins or bins in public buildings), include:

- Whether separate contracts exist; **Collected by ECSS as detailed already.**
- Materials collected, including plastic and aluminium; **Information Not Held**
- Volumes (2021/2022 – 2023/2024), with percentages and volumes for plastics and aluminium; Contract terms and fees structures with contractors. If tonnages are estimated, please state the method used. ; **Information Not Held**

5. DRS and EPR Preparations

Please can you provide details of any work undertaken in preparation for the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). This may include infrastructure investments, installation of reverse vending machines, operational changes, pilot projects, modelling, or public engagement activities. **Information Not Held**

In respect of those requests that were answered in full or partially and the total refused please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

- a) Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;
- b) Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

Section 12(4)(a) – Information Not Held

- c) State why the exemption applies:

Regulation 12 (4) a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that (a) it does not hold that information when an applicant's request is received.

In respect of those requests that were answered in full or partially and the total refused please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

- a) Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;
- b) Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

- c) State why the exemption applies:

The information requested is accessible to you via other means at:

Section 21 states the following:

- 1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under Section 1 is exempt information.
- 2) For the purposes of subsection (1) –
 - a. Information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and
 - b. Information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

Therefore, as the Council publish this information, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Act.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 25/26-148.

If information has been refused, please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.