

FOI Reference Number: FOI/314/1819

Date: 08 October 2018

Request:

I would like to request details about the effects of misuse of public recycling centres for commercial purposes, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

To be clear; I am speaking about individuals posing as residents in order to dispose of commercial or industrial waste without charge at local public recycling centres.

Specifically, could you answer the following questions:

1. What means, if any, does the council use to detect and prevent misuse of recycling centres by non-residential visitors?
2. How much has the misuse of public recycling facilities cost the council in the last complete accounting year, and over the last 5 accounting years? Please break down the cost of disposing of the waste, as well as the lost fees that should have been collected from any commercial entities who disposed of their waste fraudulently, and if possible, any remedial or preventative costs associated with this activity.
3. What percentage of waste disposed of at public recycling centres does the council estimate is associated with commercial misuse of the facilities?
4. What other information can the council provide about the scale and nature of the issue, and the council's previous and current approach to tackling the issue

Response:

Thank you for your information request which Mid and East Antrim Borough Council received on 03 October 2018.

Please find below Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's response to the information you requested in relation to recycling centres.

1. What means, if any, does the council use to detect and prevent misuse of recycling centres by non-residential visitors?

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (MEA) have "Vehicle Recognition Software" in use at HWRC's. All sites are fully staffed at all times, and manage access.

2. How much has the misuse of public recycling facilities cost the council in the last complete accounting year, and over the last 5 accounting years? Please break down the cost of disposing of the waste, as well as the lost fees that should have been collected from any commercial entities who disposed of their waste fraudulently, and if possible, any remedial or preventative costs associated with this activity.

MEA do not feel this is an issue.

3. What percentage of waste disposed of at public recycling centres does the council estimate is associated with commercial misuse of the facilities?

N/A

4. What other information can the council provide about the scale and nature of the issue, and the council's previous and current approach to tackling the issue?

MEA do not feel this is an issue.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Chief Executive at the Braid Ballymena Town Hall, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ.

Please remember to quote the reference number FOI/314/1819 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at <https://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/>.

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.