



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Councillor Stephen Cooksey
Room 210
County Hall
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Our ref: DWO427125/MP

5 May 2017

Dear Councillor Cooksey,

Thank you for your letter of 10 April to the Secretary of State about charging for DIY waste at household waste recycling centres (HWRC). I have been asked to reply.

It is for local authorities to determine what is practical and affordable in their areas when considering their waste management policies, taking into account local circumstances, and for local people to hold their council to account.

A number of councils have introduced additional charges for the deposit of waste that they categorise as 'waste other than household waste'. However, this can inconvenience residents and make disposing of their waste more difficult. There is also a risk these charges can be counterproductive and simply transfer costs to dealing with additional fly-tipping and littering.

It is therefore important that, where charges are proposed, they are proportionate and transparent and are made in consultation with residents, so that local services meet local needs. In the case of DIY waste, it is for each council to determine in accordance with the relevant legislation whether charges should be applied on a case by case basis.

The Litter Strategy for England states that Defra has agreed to work with local authorities and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to review WRAP's current non-statutory guidance to councils on operating HWRCs in order to clarify advice on charging in relation to DIY waste disposal in particular.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Plowright
Defra – Ministerial Correspondence Unit

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