

REF: EIR / 6387

08th June 2026

Environmental Information Regulations Request - Household Kerbside Recycling

I refer to your EIR request and respond as follows:

Request

I am writing on behalf of Every Can Counts to request the following information relating to household kerbside recycling collected by Derry City and Strabane District Council or on its behalf by waste management contractors.

Please provide data for the financial year 2024/25. If 2024/25 data is not yet available, please provide the most recent 12-month period for which data is held.

1. Contamination rate

- The contamination rate for household kerbside recycling collections, expressed as a percentage 14.85%
- The total tonnage of household kerbside recycling that was rejected, disposed of, or diverted from recycling due to contamination 1,191.82 tonnes
- (If held) The contamination threshold at which a load is rejected (e.g. if contamination exceeds X%, the load is rejected) The contractor has stated their threshold is 15%
- What happens to household kerbside recycling that is rejected due to contamination? E.g. Sent to landfill, incineration/energy from waste, or another disposal route (please state) Waste to Energy. Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)

2. Cost of contamination

- The total cost to the council of processing or disposing of contaminated household kerbside recycling for the same period
 - (If an exact figure is not available, please provide an estimate and indicate how this was calculated) An exact figure is not available because it is absorbed into the costs that we pay the contractor.

3. Main contaminants (if recorded)

- (If held) Please provide details of the main types of contamination found in household kerbside recycling collections (for example: food waste, nappies, non-recyclable plastics, textiles, garden waste, glass in incorrect streams, etc.) The main contaminant that has been mentioned by the contractor is that of nappies followed by non-recyclable plastics and textiles.

4. Processing cost differential

- The cost per tonne to the council for processing or disposing of household kerbside recycling £86.00 per tonne
- The cost per tonne to the council for processing or disposing of general household waste £135.37 per tonne
 - (If exact figures e.g. gate fees are not available, please provide estimates or typical/average costs)

5. Clarifications

- "Household kerbside recycling" refers to dry mixed recycling, paper/card, plastics, metals and glass collected from households at the kerbside – excluding food waste collections, garden waste collections, and materials deposited at household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) or bring banks
- If waste collection and disposal services are contracted out, please include data held by or on behalf of the council through these arrangements

- If the council is a waste collection authority only and does not hold disposal cost data, please confirm this in your response and provide any contamination or rejection data you do hold

Response

Please see the information requested attached.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road
Derry BT48 7NN
Tel: 028 71253253 or email: john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

Karen Phillips
Director of Environment and Regeneration