



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Cltíe & Strabane
Deistric Cooncil

Ref: FOI / 5656

01st May 2025

Email:

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - Brown Bin Guidelines & Contaminant Prevention

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

1. Current resident guidelines on acceptable and prohibited items for brown bins.

When residents are issued with their brown bin / caddies, they received an information leaflet on the proper way to use the containers and also details on what can and can't be placed in the food caddy / brown bin. Please see attached.

2. Policies or instructions targeting contamination from PFAS, microplastics, non-compostable packaging, or similar pollutants.

The information leaflet advises residents that they cannot put packaging of any sort or plastic packaging into the brown bin / food caddy.

3. Details of any testing or assessments (by the council or with waste contractors) to monitor contaminants in brown bin waste.

Council's appointed contractor have developed a Waste Acceptance Criteria and Waste Inspection Protocols. The protocol is strictly adhered to in order to ensure the maximum rate of recycling is achieved from the incoming Source Segregated Biowaste stream. The inspection protocol is carried out in stages.

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4. Measures ensuring brown bin waste meets composting standards before processing.

As per point 3, Council's appointed contractor has many years' experience of treating biowaste streams producing PAS100 Compost. They rigorously check the bio-waste stream using their inspection protocols. Council collection crews randomly inspect bins and refuse those that are considered contaminated.

5. The council's legal obligations under the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 regarding pollution from processed brown bin waste, including responsibility delineation with private processors.

To date there have not been any major issues with contamination in the brown bin. If this did become a problem, Council would run a robust campaign to highlight issues and also target the areas where contamination has been noticed. Council routinely push messaging on the correct use of bio-waste bins.

6. Correspondence with composting companies on contamination or compost quality concerns.

Council have regular communications with the contractor where issues and concerns would be raised, no written correspondence has been exchanged to date with regard this issue.

7. Educational initiatives or campaigns informing residents about contamination risks in brown bin waste.

The Environment section have a dedicated marketing resource. This enables Council to run regular informative campaigns about bio-waste recycling. Council have also communicated key messages via large billboard signage and wrapping Council refuse vehicles. Council also focus on ensuring food waste does not go into the black bin with random checking and stickering of bins that are considered contaminated advising residents of appropriate actions to take.

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



Conor Canning
Head of Environment & Building Control

Derry City & Strabane District Council
Food and Garden Waste Recycling
 Mixed Food and Garden Waste Service

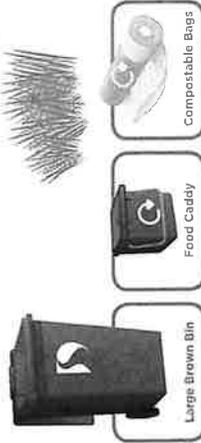


Derry & Strabane recycles.

1 Why are we making changes?

We are making changes to the way your food and garden waste is collected so that you can recycle more and we can process it in a more environmentally friendly way.

You should have received the following:



If you have not received these please call 028 71 374 107

What happens to your food and garden waste?

Your food and garden waste is taken to a special processing plant where it is recycled into compost which is used in community spaces, parks and gardens and community gardens.

By recycling your food waste you will reduce the amount of food in landfill sites. Rotting food in landfill produces methane gas which contributes to climate change and, as the cost of sending food waste to landfill is increasing, it will save you and the council area money that could be used for local facilities, events and services.

2 How do I use my food caddy?



1 Line your caddy with a compostable bag and fill it with food waste. Do not use plastic bags.



2 When it is full tie the compostable bag and put it in your Brown wheeled bin.



3 Leave your brown wheeled bin out for kerbside collection every fortnight.

3 What is food waste?

- ✓ Meat and fish - raw and cooked, including bones
- ✓ Fruit and vegetables - raw and cooked
- ✓ All dairy products, such as eggs and cheese
- ✓ Bread, cakes and pastries
- ✓ Rice, pasta and beans
- ✓ Uneaten food from your plates and dishes
- ✓ Tea bags and coffee grounds



- No Thanks!**
 please do not put any of these materials in your caddy:
- X packaging of any sort
 - X plastic packaging
 - X liquids
 - X Oil or liquid fat



Please remember -

Leave your brown wheeled bin out for kerbside collection every fortnight. For more information, download the Derry Strabane Recycling App, call 028 71 374 107 or visit www.derrystrabane.com/recycling.

