



Our reference: DAERA/23-111

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NIEA Regulation Unit
Waste Management Licensing Team
Klondyke Building
Gasworks Business Park
Belfast

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: wru.queries@daera-ni.gov.uk

04 April 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 18 March 2023 that sought the following information on 'bins' defined as the large clothing bins which are sited in many communities and which are linked to applications for exemptions under waste management regulations:

- 1. How many bins are registered in the East Belfast area and please breakdown where these are?*
- 2. How is any study undertaken to determine if a bin is located in an appropriate location before a licence is granted?*
- 3. How many bins have been removed and/or owners prosecuted over the past five years for failing to meet regulations etc?*
- 4. What engagement is there ongoing or previous with Belfast City Council regarding sites which have serious issues with Anti-Social Behaviour, fly tipping etc*
- 5. How are Licence issues dealt with when owners site bins on unadopted land?*
- 6. What discussions have been held with other stakeholders regarding clothing bin issues in Belfast?*
- 7. When was the last review of the bin register undertaken?*
- 8. What resources are allocated to ensuring that all bins in Belfast are properly registered and being maintained properly by their owner/operators?*

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I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds all of the information you requested and provides responses as per below and through the table at Annex 1;

1. In total NIEA have **16** waste clothing and/or textile bins registered through **5** Paragraph 12 waste management exemptions (the treatment and storage of waste with a view to recovery or reuse). See **Annex 1** table for specific site details. The NIEA waste management exemption public register provides further searchable details on these authorisations <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/exemptions-waste-management-licensing-public-register>. Your information request asked for waste bins registered in the East Belfast area. The United Kingdom parliament Belfast East constituency boundaries were used to define this area.
2. Should someone wish to apply to NIEA for a waste management exemption authorisation for waste clothing and/or textile bins a formal application form including a site location map and a completed landownership consent form is required. Details of NIEA landownership consent guidance and form can be found at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/landlords-landowners-risks-and-responsibilities-when-consenting-waste-activities-your-property-and>.
3. From NIEA records held there are no records of any bins have been removed and/or owners prosecuted relating to waste clothing/textile bins in the last 5 years. Work has been completed by NIEA Environmental Crime Unit in relation to a report regarding unauthorised clothing bins by a recycled clothing processor. Several site visits were carried out by NIEA Environmental Crime Unit staff. The investigation is ongoing.
4. Officers from NIEA Environmental Crime Unit sit on the Northern Ireland Environmental Quality Forum alongside a representative from Belfast City Council. Issues such as fly-tipping and waste clothing/textile bins are discussed at these meetings. Anti-social behaviour would not be part of these discussions. NIEA Environmental Crime Unit routinely refer back to Belfast City Council complaints relating to small scale and non-hazardous fly tipping associated to waste clothing/textile bin locations.
5. If there are waste clothing/textile bins on unadopted lands and these are not authorised by the NIEA Waste Management Licensing team through a waste management exemption it would be a matter for NIEA Environmental Crime Unit to investigate as illegal waste activity.
6. NIEA does not conduct any specific stakeholder engagement on waste clothing/textile bins. The matter is discussed regularly at the Northern Ireland Environmental Quality Forum where NIEA Environmental Crime Unit and Belfast City Council have representation..
7. The NIEA does not hold and/or maintain reviews of a specific waste bin register. The NIEA waste management exemption public register provides further searchable details on any waste clothing and/or textile bin authorisations <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/exemptions-waste-management-licensing-public-register>. This register

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is updated as and when any new waste exemption application become authorised or when waste management exemption authorisations expire.

8. It is not the role of NIEA to specifically allocate resource to ensure that all bins in Belfast are properly registered and being maintained.

Should someone wish to apply to NIEA for a waste management exemption authorisation for waste clothing and/or textile bins a formal application form including a site location map and a completed landownership consent form is required. Details of NIEA landownership consent guidance and form can be found at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/landlords-landowners-risks-and-responsibilities-when-consenting-waste-activities-your-property-and>. NIEA resource is put into ensuring this is a valid application and that the site can ultimately become authorised.

Any complaints made in relation to clothing/textile bins with no authorised waste management exemptions could potentially be allocated to NIEA Environmental Crime Unit for assessment. Unless they relate to 5 or more bins or allegations of organised waste crime these are likely to be referred back to the relevant Council.

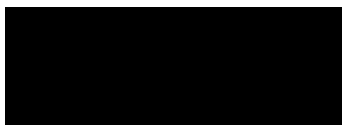
If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department.

If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,



NIEA Head of Waste Licensing

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Annex 1

| Waste Management Exemption Reference | Applicant / Operator Name | Address of Waste Management Exemption Authorised Site | Number of Waste Banks/Bins Registered |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| WMEX 38/71 | Mr James John Gilleece | USA Car Wash and Valeting, Old Holywood Road, Belfast, BT18 9RG | 1 |
| WMEX 28/63 | Hotpursuit Enterprises Ltd T/A Cookstown Textile Recyclers | Avoniel Primary School, Belfast | 1 |
| WMEX 28/63 | Hotpursuit Enterprises Ltd T/A Cookstown Textile Recyclers | Greenwood Primary School, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast | 1 |
| WMEX 35/89 | Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council | Ballybeen Health & Wellbeing Hub, Ballybeen, Dundonald, BT16 | 1 |
| WMEX 35/89 | Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council | Dundonald International Ice Bowl, Old Dundonald Road, Belfast, BT16 1XT | 2 |
| WMEX 35/89 | Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council | NIHE Car Park, Rosneath Gardens, Dundonald, BT16 1UN | 1 |
| WMEX 31/108 | Oxfam Ireland | Co-op, 156 Connsbrook Avenue, Belfast, BT4 1JX | 1 |
| WMEX 31/108 | Oxfam Ireland | Sainsbury's, Holywood Exchange, Belfast, BT3 9LJ | 4 |
| WMEX 31/108 | Oxfam Ireland | Tesco, 160-220 Castlereagh Road, Belfast, BT5 5FT | 1 |
| WMEX 31/108 | Oxfam Ireland | Ikea, Holywood Exchange, Belfast, BT3 9LJ | 1 |
| WMEX 31/108 | Oxfam Ireland | Tesco, Knocknagoney Road, Belfast, BT4 1QA | 1 |
| WMEX 31/75 | Belfast City Council | Cregagh Youth and Community Centre, Mount Merrion Avenue, BT6 0FL | 1 |

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