

Environmental Information Request: 0495

Please could you provide the following information relating to the amount, cost, methods and reporting of the disposal and treatment of municipal, healthcare and clinical waste.

The questions below relate to bagged waste only, including the following:

- Municipal waste, residual (not segregated for recycling);
- Municipal waste, recyclable (segregated by single type or as a comingled recyclable stream);
- Offensive waste;
- Infectious waste streams, orange and yellow categories (not sharps).

Please indicate the total amount of waste (in weight) produced by your organisation:

	Tonnes 2016/2017	Tonnes 2017/2018
Municipal, residual (black bags)	2018.77	1968.87
Municipal, recycling	1277.73	1167.58
Offensive (tiger strips)	447	515
Infectious (orange), suitable for alternative treatment	2183.03	2190.56
Infectious (yellow), requiring incineration	303.35	324.18

The associated costs for collection and treatment/disposal of these wastes:

	£ 2016/2017	£ 2017/2018
Municipal, residual (black bags)		
Municipal, recycling		
Offensive (tiger strips)		

	£ 2016/2017	£ 2017/2018
Municipal, residual (black bags)		
Municipal, recycling		
Infectious (orange), suitable for alternative treatment		
Infectious (yellow), requiring incineration		

Regulation 12(5) (e) – relating to confidentiality of commercial information

Regulation 12(5)(e) of the EIR provides that a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that its disclosure would adversely affect “the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest”.

The Trust is unable to provide financial information as this is commercial in confidence to both the Trust and the service provider and disclosure of this information would be detrimental to the Trust. The Trust is in a competitive tender exercise for this waste contract alongside the Birmingham Consortium. Release of this information could disadvantage the Trust in any negotiations.

The exceptions under Regulations 12(4) (e) and 12(5) (e) of the EIR 2004 are qualified, and in applying these exceptions the public interest test was applied. There is a public interest in disclosure for greater transparency; there is also public interest in knowing that the EIRs ensure wider access to the Trusts information.

However, having considered the balance of the public interest, we believe the countervailing public interest in protecting commercially confidential information, and in ensuring that external commercial interests are not damaged or undermined by the disclosure of information which is not common knowledge, and which would have an adverse impact on future business, outweighs the interest in disclosure in this case. It is in the public interest that the trust between the Trust and business be maintained. Revealing this information may break this trust, making it more difficult for the Trust and business to share information and work together, which runs counter to the public interest.