

### DIY Rubbish at Recycling Centres (Suggested by Dalton Parish Council)

I acknowledge your objection to our policy to limit the quantity of certain types of DIY waste accepted at the HWRCs but wanted to take the opportunity to explain a few important points about the policy.

Firstly I would mention that the policy doesn't relate to all waste from DIY activities but specifically the waste that we collect in our soil and rubble containers. These also take things like ceramic sinks, toilets and tiles for example but not all aspects of what could be classed as 'DIY' waste. There has been some confusion over the extent of the policy and as such we intend to make this clear in future communications.

The policy is intended only to limit the amount of this waste that householders can take to the HWRCs. In the majority of cases the limit - 10 bags or items per year - will be more than sufficient for what householders need. The only inconvenience is that householders will need to obtain a permit in advance of their visit. The permit is **free** but needs to be obtained in advance.

The option for householders to pay is purely to provide additional flexibility for those who either haven't got a permit, or who want to deliver more than the 10 bags or items. We felt that rather than turn these people away - which would be the greatest risk of encouraging fly tipping - if they had the option to pay for their waste on the day it would be better than not being able to use the facility at all.

In basic terms therefore the majority of householders generating reasonable quantities of soil/rubble etc. will be able to continue to use the facilities free of charge. As an example, if a householder was renovating their bathroom they could take a sink, a pedestal, a toilet and two 25kg bags of tiles/rubble and still be able to visit with 5 more bags/items during the year. For the majority of households this will be more than enough and if a householder is producing more than this amount - **which equates to a quarter of a tonne per household per year** - they really shouldn't be using the HWRCs but be disposing of the waste privately.

We have evidence that some site users deliver significantly in excess of the amount that could be reasonably expected to be from a domestic property. Some visit almost daily for example. It is highly likely that this is commercial waste but is extremely difficult to prove one way or the other. The important thing however is that if it is commercial waste it is being deposited at tax payers' expense. Furthermore, it is being deposited illegally and the Council, and its contractor through its waste management licence, has a legal duty to take measures to prevent this; which the policy will do.

Many other Council's across the UK already limit the amount of inert soil/rubble type waste they accept at HWRCs and Councils have no obligation to provide facilities for it as it is not formally considered to be household waste (it is classed as construction and demolition waste). But naturally we do recognise that many householders benefit from access to facilities for inert waste and as such we do provide them through the HWRCs and want to continue to do so. However, we do feel that being able to dispose of a quarter of a tonne per household per year should be more than sufficient.

Any more than this really is outside of the scope of what it is reasonable to expect to be able to deliver to a HWRC, but even then we will still provide facilities for it; it is simply that the householder would have to pay for the excess amount. Importantly though, the charges mean it will be more viable for the more frequent users who deposit large quantities to source private facilities (such as hiring a skip) thereby reducing the burden on tax payers and potentially helping to prevent the illegal deposit of commercial waste.

Whilst there is always a risk that some people will act irresponsibly and fly tip waste we consider that the potential for fly tipping will be vastly reduced by providing enough 'free' access to satisfy the majority of householders needs and then the added flexibility to pay for amounts in excess of the limit. We will of course monitor the impacts of the policy and work with the district councils to take action against those who do so.

Lancashire County Council is in a position where it is forced to cut the amount it spends on services by over £200m over the next two years. Dealing with soil/rubble type waste through the HWRCs costs the Council in excess of £750,000 a year. We have to reduce this cost and stop those site users who are exploiting the service by delivering unreasonable quantities of the waste. The policy to limit its free disposal is a reasonable compromise in making savings whilst ensuring that the Council is still able to provide a service for genuine householders to dispose of small quantities. The saving made will mean that other essential services can continue to be provided that may otherwise be affected.