

## **IWMA Agrees Measures to Alleviate Consumer Concerns on Pay by Weight**

IWMA members have today agreed a number of measures which will alleviate consumer concerns regarding pricing and will also alleviate the impact on households where there is a health issue that requires the use of non-infancy incontinence wear.

IWMA member companies commit to freezing prices at current rates for a twelve month period from 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to 1 July 2017. This means that no householder disposing the same quantities of waste will face any additional charges during the first 12 months of Pay By Weight.

During this 12 month transition period waste companies will provide a cost comparison to their customers that will show the amount of waste they are disposing, their current costs and the equivalent Pay By Weight Charges. Providing this cost comparison will help householders better understand how waste charges are calculated. They will be able to see how recycling more can reduce their annual charges.

To further help ensure that the majority of customers reap the benefits of the Pay By Weight charging system when it is fully rolled out, IWMA Members will use the 12 month transition period to encourage waste prevention and recycling. In parallel, IWMA members expect the Department of Environment to provide an informative awareness campaign that allows the public to understand the need for and benefits of the Pay By Weight system.

Waste Contractors who are members of the Irish Waste Management Association have also agreed to provide a weight allowance to HSE patients supplied with incontinence wear to reduce their annual waste charges. IWMA members are committed to an arrangement whereby the additional weight attributed to non-infancy incontinence wear will be collected free of charge.

The IWMA has been examining the issue for the past two months, meeting with the Carers' Association to better understand their requirements and working with the Department and the HSE to provide for households with higher volumes of waste than average due to non-infancy incontinence.

This is a practical solution to hardship experienced by particularly vulnerable people in our society – the aged and those with disabilities.

The Irish Waste Management Association (IWMA) and its member companies remain committed to supporting Government Policy in the introduction of Pay By Weight waste collection services. Responsible waste operators have made the necessary investment to meet their obligations under the Government introduced regulations and the industry will continue to work with Government to ensure its successful introduction.