



Mr. Leo Duffy,
National Waste Collection Permit Office

Sent by email only

9th June 2023

Re: Draft New Waste Collection Permit Conditions relating to Commercial Waste Collections

Dear Mr. Duffy

Thank you for sharing the above-referenced draft permit conditions for our feedback and thank you for your contribution and Deirdre's contribution to our meeting on this matter last week.

We raised a number of issues and concerns about the proposed amended conditions at that meeting and we elaborate on those in this correspondence.

Condition 6.1.2.

There was a discussion about the requirement to provide brown bins to commercial premises when there is currently no obligation on some of those businesses to accept and use brown bins. It was agreed at the meeting that brown bins should be offered, actively promoted and delivered when the customer agrees to take them. Obligated businesses are described in the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009. The list may be amended in time, but the obligation to use a brown bin is not currently universal amongst all businesses, so the permit condition should account for that inequality and recognise that brown bins can be refused by commercial customers.

There was also a discussion about the frequency of collections of each bin type. The IWMA suggests that there is no need for a minimum frequency of residual waste collections to be specified as priority lies with the collection of recyclable materials, including organics.

There are also situations where more than one collector collects from a business, particularly where the business has good volumes of specific recyclable materials. The proposed condition does not allow for such exceptions and assumes that the collector collects all waste streams. This needs to be considered further in the wording of this condition.

Condition 6.1.9.

The requirement to provide a customer charter to businesses was then raised at last week's meeting. We understand from your feedback that this can be specific to each customer but should be broadly aligned with the example given in the sixth schedule of the regulations. For example, the frequency of collections can be described "*as per the contract*".

Condition 6.1.12.

The proposed restriction on collection times for commercial waste was discussed at length at our meeting last week. The IWMA members are strongly opposed to such restrictions as the whole system depends on late night or early morning collections of commercial waste in appropriate areas. Some collections currently start at 3am without complaint and others must be carried out after the night-time businesses close in the early hours of the morning.

Also, reducing collection hours would lead to more trucks on the road at busier times which has several negative consequences with potential impacts in the form of air pollution, carbon emissions, increased traffic, impact on schools, increased waste collection costs, etc.

It was noted that the new legislation does not impose such restrictions on collection times so, in the view of the IWMA Members, it is not currently necessary to impose such restrictions.

If there is to be any restrictions on collection times, the IWMA suggests that it should be the exception rather than the rule and must be justified based on complaints from residential premises in proximity to the relevant businesses.

Condition 6.1.22

The IWMA suggests that Part iii of this condition should be removed or amended. It currently states:

“The permit holder shall:

iii. When requested to do so, provide to a local authority, details of the collection service, including details of the collection of separate classes of commercial waste, details of persons who choose not to partake in the collection of separate classes of commercial waste, and details of when commercial waste was last collected and in any case, by 31 December in each calendar year, inform the relevant local authority of persons who are refusing to avail of the source segregated waste collection service refers.”

The IWMA understands that this is an existing condition, but has continuously argued that waste collectors are not equipped to identify “*persons who choose not to partake in the collection of separate classes of commercial waste*” or “*persons who are refusing to avail of the source segregated waste collection service.*”

There is no issue with providing details of the service provided to customers, but there is a difficulty in establishing the types of wastes produced by businesses and how those businesses manage all the waste that they produce. They may have treatment at source or reuse arrangements for some materials or may have specialised collectors for food waste or specific recyclables, for example newspapers and magazines. IWMA members do not have the authority or the mandate to investigate such matters. This alteration to current waste collection permits is an opportunity to remove or amend this inappropriate condition.

We hope that this submission will be considered positively in the revision of the waste collection permits and we once again thank you for your positive engagement in this process.

Yours sincerely



Conor Walsh
IWMA Secretary

For and on behalf of the Irish Waste Management Association

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