

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000553
Date 27 October 2016

Charity Shops

Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your local authority:

- (1) The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 advise that waste produced by a charity shop selling donated goods which have originated from domestic property (e.g. from private donors) should be counted as household waste, not commercial. With this in mind:
 - (a) do you accept this kind of waste in the event that a local charity shop were to bring it to one of your council's sites?
[Charities are limited to 12 loads per annum.](#)
 - (b) do you levy a charge to dispose of such items of domestic waste in the event that a local charity shop were to bring them to one of your civic amenities sites?
[N/A](#)
- (2) If your answer to (1 b) is yes, please provide details of your charging scheme, including any different rates of charges for different categories of waste (for example WEEE items) and any plans to change your charging policies in the future.
[N/A](#)
- (3) Do you host any charity shops at your civic amenities sites, and if so how many?
[No](#)
- (4) How many charity shops are you aware of operating within your local authority area?
[N/A](#)

(5) Under the system of business rates relief in England and Wales, local authorities have discretionary powers to grant additional rate relief of up to 20 per cent to charity shops within their area. To how many of the above charity shops do you:

(a) grant the full 20 per cent rate relief discount,

24 cases

(b) grant some discretionary rate relief to, but not the full 20 per cent,

0 cases

(c) not grant any additional discretionary rate relief?

25 cases

(6) Under what criteria would you grant additional discretionary rate relief to charity shops in your area, and do you have any plans to reform these policies in the future?

Each application is considered on its own merits but to qualify for discretionary rate relief, the charity must show that the area in which the objectives of the charity are delivered is within the City. It is unlikely that discretionary relief will be given to national charities that appear to be capable of supporting themselves financially. Our policy is reviewed on a regular basis but there are no immediate plans to make any changes.

(7) How many textile recycling banks does you directly manage within your local authority area and what is the average annual income generated by these banks?

City of Wolverhampton Council took out all bring sites approximately two years ago. There are still some textile banks in place at some supermarkets etc but these are by private arrangement.

(8) How much would your local authority charge a charity for a licence to operate a textile recycling bank in your area?

N/A