

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 0216119
Date 22 February 2016

Littering Fines and Contract

Request:

1) The number of fines issued to those littering/fouling in the council area in financial year 15/16 broken down by type of offence (smoking, litter, dog fouling).

Litter - 4,140
Dog Fouling - 8
Smoking in the Workplace - 12

2) The number of fines issued to those littering/fouling in the council area in financial year 15/16 broken down by demographic profile (age, gender, and ethnicity).

In respect of questions 1, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information broken down by demographic profile. Consequently, we are unable to provide information relating to this area, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

However, please see the tables below providing information we do hold on age and gender as you requested:

Age Banding	Age Banding Count	Percentage
16	1	0.02%
17	26	0.63%
18	35	0.84%
19	115	2.77%
20 - 29	1381	33.29%
30 - 39	886	21.36%
40 - 49	634	15.28%
50 - 59	499	12.03%
60 - 69	58	1.40%
Not known	513	12.37%
Total :	4148	

Gender	Gender Count	Percentage
Female	1637	39.46%
Male	2511	60.54%
Total :	4148	

3) How much income, linked to their share of the fines levied, the private contractor enforcing the fines has earned during 15/16?

Under the current enforcement trial arrangements, Kingdom receive £46.50 for every FPN correctly issued regardless of whether it is paid or not. The Council receive the whole amount (£75) when an FPN is paid.

Between 12 August 2015 and 24 February 2016, the number of FPN's issued was 4148 and the number paid was 2558

4) Whether the contractor's operatives have any power to detain an offender who refuses to give their details.

They do not have these powers. It is an offence for a person to give wrong address details, only the Police can detain.

5) Whether the council did any benchmarking in determining the level of the fine offered and provide the results of that benchmarking if possible.

The DCLG Select Committees Seventh Report of Session 2014 -2015 on Litter and Fly-Tipping in England stated the National average littering FPN amount to be £75 and we benchmarked against this.

Furthermore, the DCLG Report stated in Recommendation 11 and 12 'we see a case for increasing the maximum FPN level both to encourage local authorities to make greater use of FPN's and to provide additional resources to remove litter. The Government response to this was presented to Parliament in December 2015. It said the Government agreed with the Committee that a good case can be made for increasing the level of the FPN's which councils can impose, and, as set out in its manifesto it will consult on proposals to increase the fines for littering later in the year and any changes will then be made by secondary legislation.

6) Whether any of the contractor's operatives have been assaulted during the course of issuing fines during 15/16 financial year.

Yes