



27 February 2024

Carole Inglis



Dear Carole Inglis

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (the Act) 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 1 February 2024 for:

- 1. Number of households for kerbside collection – and how materials are collected (glass separate/ commingled + rubbish).*
- 2. Split by material type of what is collected at kerbside so that we can isolate the plastic component – for transport and for sortation at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF).*
- 3. Cost of the kerbside collection or the Council's budget for kerbside collections.*
- 4. Cost of MRF process or Council's budget for MRF process.*
- 5. Export market for plastic by resin type – cost of shipment/port costs + revenue.*

We will answer each of your questions in turn.

1. Number of households for kerbside collection – and how materials are collected (glass separate/ commingled + rubbish).

Answer:

Council operates a service for residential customers only, as follows:

- A weekly rubbish collection service,
- A fortnightly recycling collection service (mixed recycling and glass collected separately), and



- A four-weekly green waste collection service (this is an optional service, approximately 5,700 households utilise this; an unknown number of households have private green waste collection services)

As at 31 January 2024, there were 39,843 households subject to Council's service.

2. Split by material type of what is collected at kerbside so that we can isolate the plastic component – for transport and for sortation at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF).

Answer:

Council collects about 5,300t of mixed recycling per annum. This includes some contaminated recycling.

The approximate material split is as follows, figures rounded based on the average for 12 months, based on MRF data:

Cardboard: 34.9%

Paper: 25.0%

#1 PET Clear: 8.8%

#2 HDPE Coloured: 1.6%

#2 HDPE Milk: 3%

Mixed Plastic (coloured #1, #2, etc): 3.2%

Steel: 4.2%

Aluminium: 2.8%

Waste (contamination): 16.5%

3. *Cost of the kerbside collection or the Council's budget for kerbside collections.*

Answer:

Total costs per service stream are as follows (estimate for 24/25). Costs include contractor costs, disposal/processing costs, and Council administration and overheads.

Rubbish: \$7.9M

Recycling + glass collection : \$4.6M (also includes contamination penalties, and costs for bin inspections)

Green waste: \$0.7M

4. *Cost of MRF process or Council's budget for MRF process.*

Answer:

We are withholding this information under section 7(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, as the information requested would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

5. *Export market for plastic by resin type – cost of shipment/port costs + revenue.*

Answer:

The Council does not hold this information. Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request under section 17(e) of the Act, that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

We are required to consider whether there are any countervailing public interest consideration under section 7(1) of the Act regarding the information we have withheld. We do not think that the public interest outweighs withholding information in this case.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response to your information request may be published on Hutt City Council's website. Please refer to the following link: www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/contactus/make-an-official-information-act-request/proactive-releases

Yours sincerely

Philip Rossiter

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy