



Information Governance Team

Postal Address:
Coventry City Council
PO Box 15
Council House
Coventry
CV1 5RR

www.coventry.gov.uk

E-mail: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Phone: 024 7697 5408

18 June 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI330610002

Thank you for your request for information relating to Recycling refuse collectors noise exposure.

You have requested the following information:

1. Which method for collecting recycling glass do you complete? (kerbside or co-mingled for example)

Coventry City Council carries out co-mingled collection of glass as part of its recycling waste collection.

2. i. Have you completed any noise assessments for refuse recycling collection services?

ii. If yes, have these been completed for exposure to the workforce or for environmental noise?

i. & ii. Historically we have carried out noise assessments between 2010 & 2012 which were related to the workforce.

3. If you have completed noise assessments for noise exposure to the workforce of recycling refuse collections, can you please provide the information with exposure levels? (Sound level readings, dosimeter readings or noise assessment reports)

We no longer hold the noise data and assessments and are informing you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. As part of our retention policy, this information has since been deleted. To assist, a review of noise generated from co-mingled waste is scheduled to be undertaken, given that the composition of waste has changed considerably over the last 10 years with changes in legislation, manufacturers moving to cheaper products and changes in product design, the increased use of plastics and the reduction in the use of glass products. Additionally, over the last 18 months the composition of waste has changed further with the “Amazon problem”, increased content from fibre and cardboard packaging which has reduced noise levels from co-mingled waste.

4. If you have not completed noise assessments for recycling refuse collection services, can you provide the rationale for not completing these? (Working environmental noise or other hazards)

Not applicable as noise assessments were carried out previously.

5. i. Do you consider any existing noise induced hearing loss when recruiting a new employee as a recycling refuse loader?

New City Council employees undertake a pre-health screening questionnaire as part of the recruitment process and new employees are required to declare any ill health condition as part of the screening questionnaire. Where hearing problems or noise induced hearing loss is identified further investigation would be undertaken to identify any concerns.

ii. Or, when contracting agency staff, as refuse loaders?

We do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. Agencies are responsible for conducting any pre-health screening to identify any hearing problems.

6. i. Do you provide recycling refuse collection loaders with any personal hearing protection?

Hearing protection is not issued to co-mingled waste crews.

ii. If yes, what type? N/A.

iii. If No, the rationale for not? (may be similar to question 4 response)

It is understood that the noise levels identified at the time were below the upper exposure action value. A risk assessment was carried out and hearing protection is available upon request (Reg 7 of the Control of Noise at Work regulations 2005).

The supply of information in response to a Freedom of Information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response.

Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance