**Request Reference: 16171272**

**Date received: 30 December 2016**

**Date response sent: 30 January 2017**

**I seek information under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) (2004) regarding plastic and recycling. Please note I would like my request to be handled under the EIRs rather than the Freedom of Information Act because my request relates to subjects included under section 2(1)(b) of the EIR.**

**1a. Are you the local authority that is responsible for the collection of household waste for recycling/reuse/compost [henceforth referred to collectively as recycling] in your area?**

Yes, Torbay Council is the local authority that is responsible for the collection of household waste for recycling/reuse/compost [henceforth referred to collectively as recycling] in this area?

**1b. If yes, please specify the percentage and weight of all waste collected in your area that was collected for recycling in the years**

**1b.i. 2014/15**

41.87% - 23584.94 tonnes (household waste only)

**1b. ii. 2015/16?**

42.6% - 25327.52 tonnes (household waste only)

**1c. of the household waste that was collected for recycling, please specify, if known, the percentage and weight that was plastic in**

**1c. i. 2014/15**

274.93 (1.09% of recycled household waste)

**1c. ii. 2015/16**

295.22 (1.17% of recycled household waste)

**1d. If no to 1.a., please specify the local authority that is/was responsible for collection in your area.**

n/a

**2a. Did you record how much of the waste sent for recycling was actually recycled in**

**a.i. 2014/15**

Yes

**bii. 2015/16**

Yes

**2b. If yes, please specify the percentage and weight of the waste sent for recycling that actually ended up being recycled in**

**2b. i. 2014/15**

41.87% - 23584.94 tonnes (household waste only)

**2b. ii. 2015/16**

42.6% - 25327.52 tonnes (household waste only)

**2c. If known, please specify the percentage and weight of plastic sent for recycling that actually ended up being recycled**

**2c. i. 2014/15**

274.93 (1.09% of recycled household waste)

**2c. ii. 2015/16**

295.22 (1.17% of recycled household waste)

**2c. If known, please specify the percentage and weight of waste collected for recycling that was sent to landfill/incineration in**

**2c. i. 2014/15**

MRF rejects of 39.67 tonnes (this tonnage is not included in the recycled tonnage)

**2c. ii. 2015/16**

MRF rejects of 11.73 tonnes (this tonnage is not included in the recycled tonnage)

**2d. If no to 2.a., please explain why you do not monitor or enforce the reporting of your waste sent for recycling that is actually recycled.**

n/a

**3a. Was any of the material you collected for recycling sent abroad for processing in the following years and if so what percentage and weight in**

Yes

**3a. i. 2014/15**

431.3 tonnes – (1.83% of recycled household waste)

**3a. ii. 2015/16**

1188.13 tonnes (4.69% of recycled household waste)

**3b. if known, please specify the percentage and weight of the waste sent abroad that was plastic**

**3b. i. 2014/15**

50.9 tonnes (11.8% of exported recycled household waste)

**3b. ii. 2015/16?**

69.03 tonnes (5.81% of exported recycled household waste)

**3c. i. if known, please specify the percentage and weight of recycling material that was sent abroad was actually recycled in the years**

**3d. i. 2014/15**

50.9 tonnes (11.8% of exported recycled household waste)

**3d. ii. 2015/16**

69.03 tonnes (5.81% of exported recycled household waste)

**4. Please specify the names of all subcontractors you paid to manage your recycling in any form and the value of those contracts in**

**4a. 2014/15**

Tor2 are contracted to collect and manage recycling in Torbay and deal with the sale of materials for recycling as part of this contract. Torbay Council does not enter into contracts directly for the sale of materials for recycling.

**4b. 2015/16**

As 4a.

**5. Do you, the local authority, accept that your declared recycling rates in the years 2014/15 and 2015/16 could be an overestimate as they do not account for the material rejected by the recycling companies and/or materials recovery facility?**

No, we have reported these figures through the Waste Data Flow system and they have been approved by the Environment Agency and DEFRA as recycled.