

57219 Waste Recycling Centres in Edinburgh

I would like to obtain details regarding the rationale for not reversing the changes made to the procedures for using the Waste Recycling Centres in Edinburgh, implemented in response to the COVID Pandemic in 2020. All other COVID related restrictions have ended as far as I am aware. Given that, due to the outdoor nature of these centres, the risk to both employees and patrons was extremely in the first place, it does not make sense that these restrictions have not been lifted.

The current arrangements discourage the use of these sites and increase the risk of fly tipping. I am writing this now as I am unable to take a van to dispose of some household waste until Friday. Yet there are plenty of slots if I were to take my car, but this would require multiple trips wasting my time in travel and clogging up the site with multiple rounds rather than one, very slightly longer visit with a van.

What consultations were undertaken to determine the appropriateness of not reversing this Action?

The booking system was introduced to allow the sites to reopen safely during the initial stages of the pandemic, so no consultation was carried out. The decision to retain the booking system was based on our experience of operating the system and customer feedback. This measure has been reviewed by the [Transport and Environment Committee](#) several times.

What is the purpose of restricting hire vans to specific slots?

Vans take longer to unload than cars do, due to size and often due the amount loaded into them. If vans were unrestricted and came in during the car slots, they would take up more space and more time on the site, decreasing the overall number of vehicles which could use the site at that time, and potentially causing booked visitors to have to queue or wait to unload. By having separate car and van booking slots, we can tweak the numbers of vehicles in each type of slot (car or van slot) to get the best number for the site, minimising queueing and letting all site users through much faster.

Household waste recycling centres are provided to dispose of household waste, and most vans are commercial vehicles. Restrictions on specific vehicle types (not just vans) are common across most local authorities to minimise illegal use of the sites to dispose of commercial waste and have been in place for 15-20 years. These restrictions are separate from the use of the booking system.

What consideration was given to the impact of restricting vans for household use on the Edinburgh residents seeking to use the sites (I am typing this now rather than hiring a van to drop off waste I need to dispose of)

What has been the impact on the volume of vehicles visiting these sites?

What impact has there been on the volume of waste processed by these sites?

If the volume of waste processed has reduced, what analysis has been undertaken to determine what is happening to the waste not disposed of through these sites

If the volume of waste processed has reduced, what impact has there been on the staffing levels required at these sites?

As stated above, the restrictions have been in place for around 15-20 years, independent of the booking system. Therefore, given the time elapsed we are unable to assess the impact and volume of these restrictions.

Please note that businesses should be compliant with the relevant legislation regarding disposal of their waste. The Council is not responsible for the management of commercial waste.