

59799 Bin Hub A70

Please provide all information held by the City of Edinburgh Council relating to the decision to replace the bins at Bin Hub A70 with bins fitted with metal lids for a period of approximately two weeks around February 2023, and the subsequent decision to replace those bins with the original bin types with combustible lids.

In particular, I request:

All records, correspondence, reports, instructions, work orders, assessments, complaints, or decision-making documents explaining:

Why the bins at Bin Hub A70 were replaced with bins with metal lids.

In the case of hub A70, explanations and assurances provided to residents that the containers provided sufficient protection (burn time of the containers) did not satisfy concerns. The bins had been located on the street for 20 years and whilst there was no indication that an increased fire risk existed with the new bin location, it was decided to swap some of the bins in the hub with similar bins with metal lids. The bins with metal lids are typically deployed in areas around Edinburgh where the risk of people placing items such as BBQs, and in particular BBQs which are still hot, into communal bins. Advice on the Council's website around the safe disposal of BBQs is as follows:

- Extinguish and bin your BBQ: When enjoying a BBQ, please do not put it directly on the grass, and always fully extinguish BBQs before disposing of them (some parks have BBQ-only bins).

Why those bins were later replaced with the original bin types.

Communal bins used in Edinburgh include plastic lids which allow for different apertures and colours to be used. This helps reduce contamination and misuse of communal bins. It is not possible to achieve these variables with metal lids which can lead to confusion for residents as to what materials should be put into bins with metal lids. The bins with metal lids are not typically deployed in residential streets as the metal lids make a louder noise than the plastic lids when they close, thereby increasing the noise impact of communal bins. The temporary replacement of bins for non-recyclable waste in hub A70 with communal bins with metal lids was ended following noise complaints that the metal lids produced more noise than plastic lids.

All correspondence and internal or external communications relating to the above, including (but not limited to) communications conducted via:

Email - Internal messaging systems (e.g. Microsoft Teams, Slack, or equivalent)

SMS or text messages

WhatsApp or other messaging applications

Telephone call logs or notes of calls

Handwritten notes

Internal memos or briefings

Contractor communications

Meeting agendas, minutes, or notes (formal or informal)

Any records identifying:

The departments, teams, or roles involved in organising the bin change and reversal.

Any contractors or third parties involved.

Any risk assessments, noise assessments, accessibility assessments, or resident impact considerations carried out in relation to the bin change.

Please see email correspondence attached. Third party personal information has been redacted from the document provided.