



Waste and recycling trends

This briefing compares waste and recycling trends between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales using WasteDataFlow information.

Key issues

- Analysis of municipal waste and recycling data using WasteDataFlow
- Draws comparisons between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- Further performance trend data on cost, quality, productivity and customer satisfaction available from APSE performance networks.

1. Introduction

An analysis has been undertaken of municipal waste and recycling data in an attempt to illustrate the comparisons between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to show how policies may affect the trends.

All the detailed data has been downloaded from public access to the WasteDataFlow website referencing the Summary Performance Indicator Reports and the Raw Data analysis for specific recycled material trends. However, as the reporting structure for Scotland has changed over recent years, performance indicator reports for Scotland are not available.

Performance Indicator Reports available from the WasteDataFlow website are as follows:

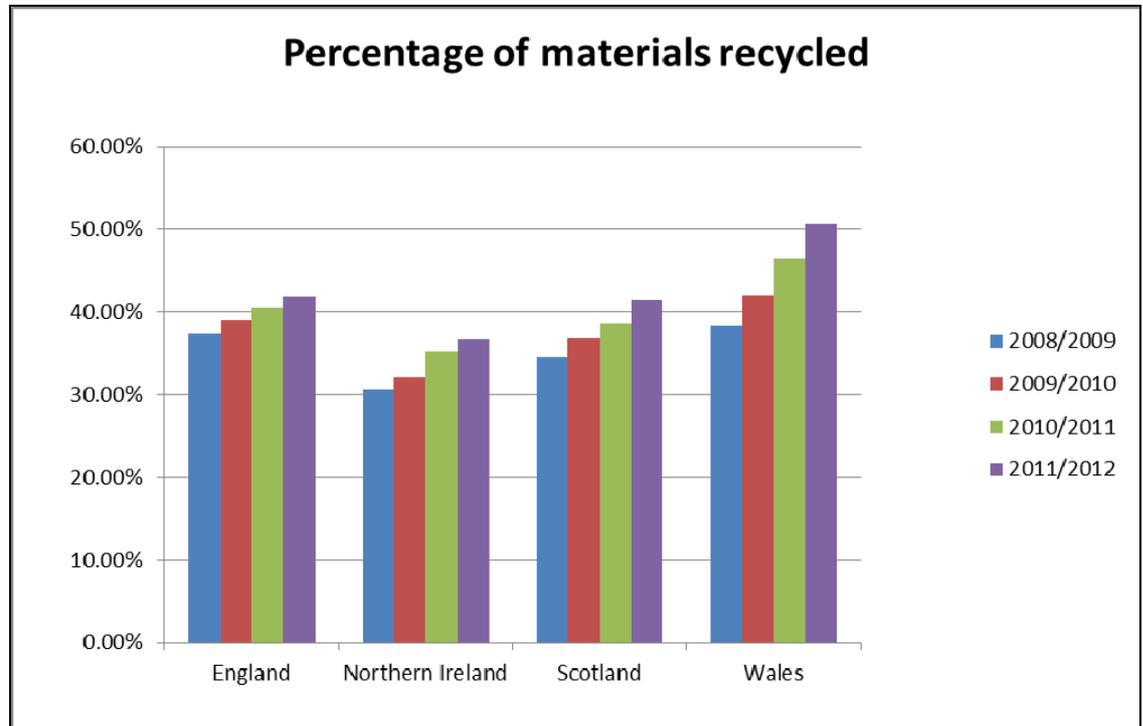
- England – NI 191 Residual Household Waste per Household, NI192 % Household waste sent for Recycling, Reuse or Composting and NI193 % Municipal waste to Landfill (however comparisons to the old BVPI framework are also calculated).
- Northern Ireland – KPI a) Household waste Recycled/Composted as a % of arisings, KPI b) Household Waste Landfilled as a % of arisings, KPI e) LACMW Recycled/Composted as a % of arisings, KPI f) LACMW Landfilled as a % of arisings, KPI h) Household waste arisings per household and KPI j) LACMW arisings.
- Scotland – No performance indicator reports available
- Wales – continues to follow the same format as England.

All the data analysed within this document has been downloaded from the website and totally relies on the accuracy of the data submissions by the individual local authorities.

2. Municipal waste and recycled material tonnages

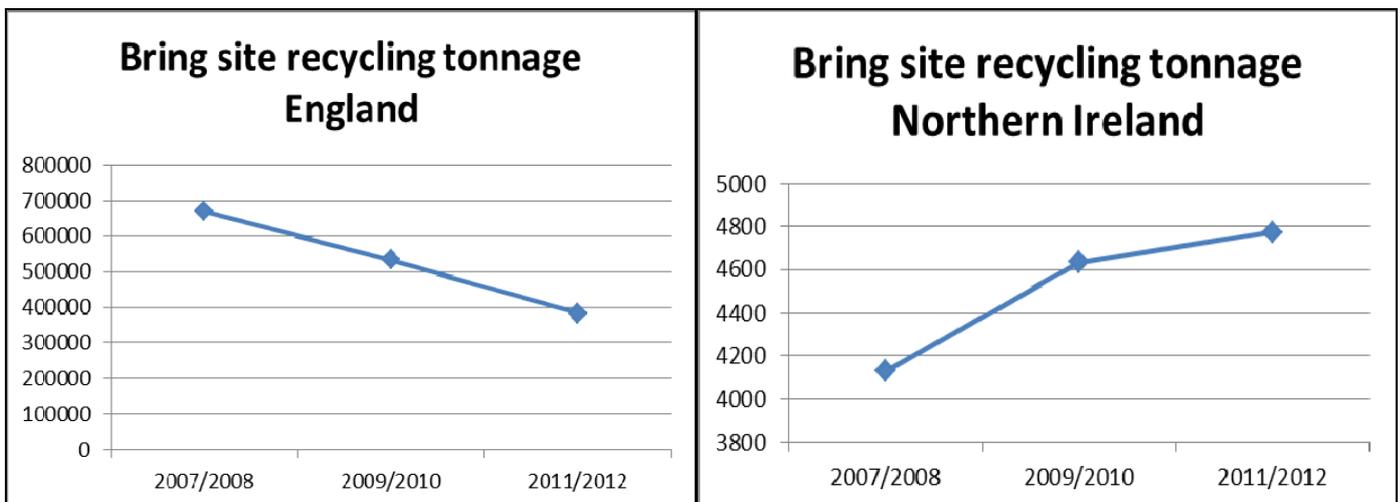
Comparing the years 2008 to 2012, the analysis shows that all four countries have seen a reduction in the overall tonnage of Municipal Waste and an increase of materials collected for recycling.

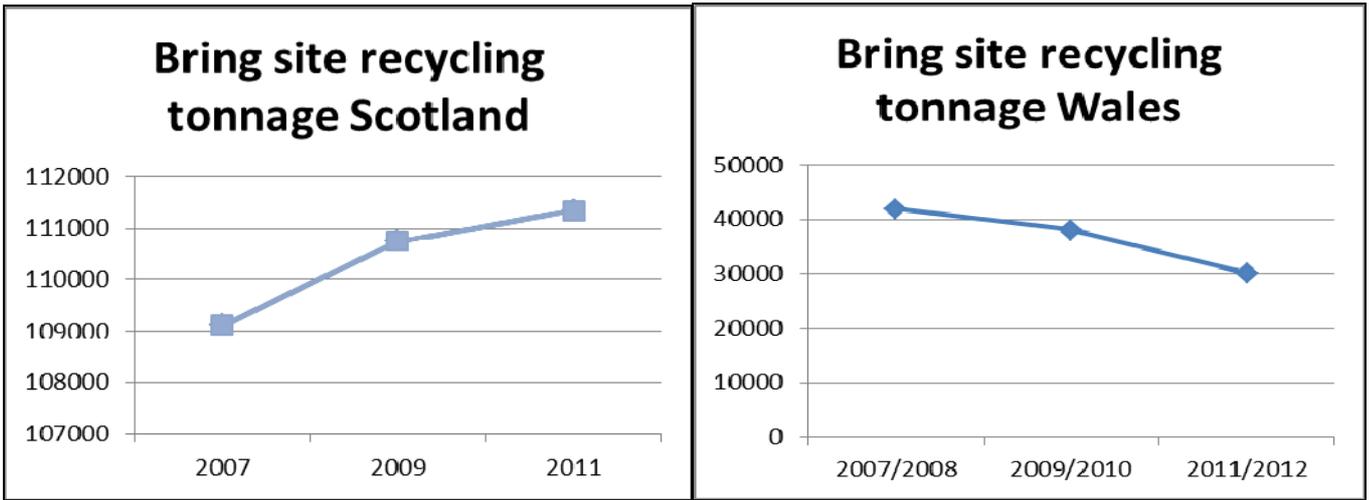
The following chart illustrates the percentage of materials recycled throughout the individual countries for the years 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2010/2011 and 2011/2012.



The following set of analysis looks at the overall trends of household waste recycling between the four countries relating to bring sites, civic amenity sites and the kerbside collected recycling materials.

3. Bring sites





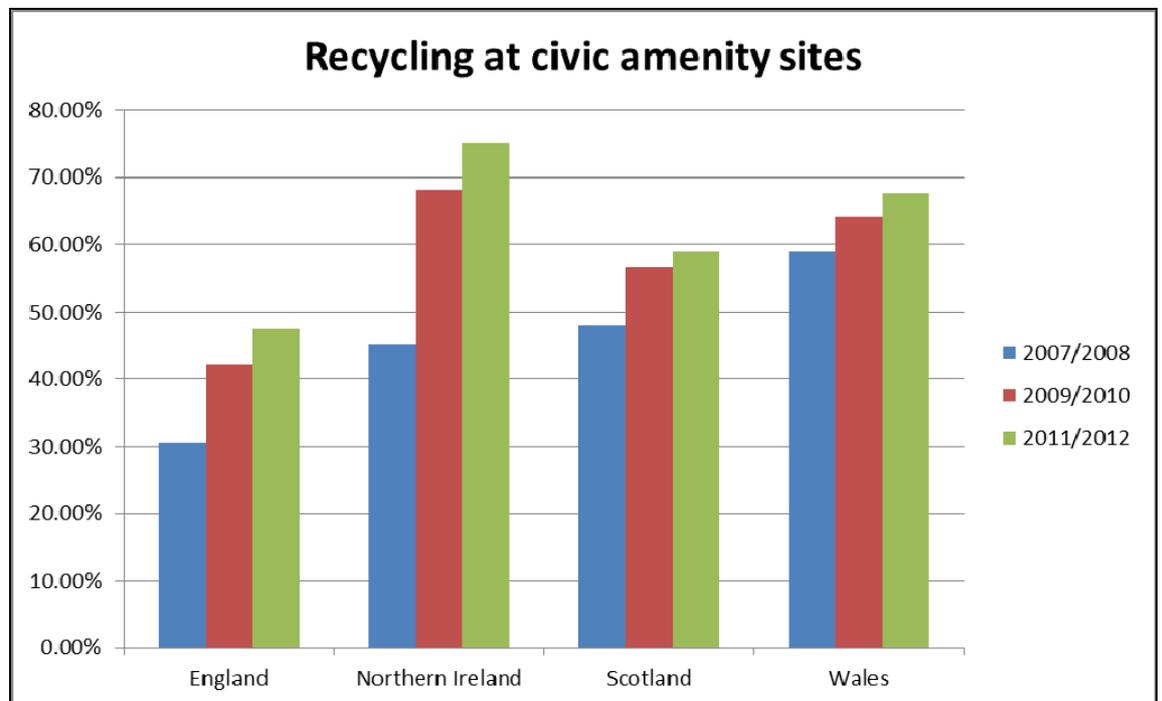
The overall trend for the tonnage recycled at bring sites shows that both England and Wales have seen a reduction in the tonnage collected at bring sites, whereas Northern Ireland and Scotland have both seen increases.

(Data obtained from Wastedataflow Raw Data Summaries from Question 17).

4. Civic Amenity Sites

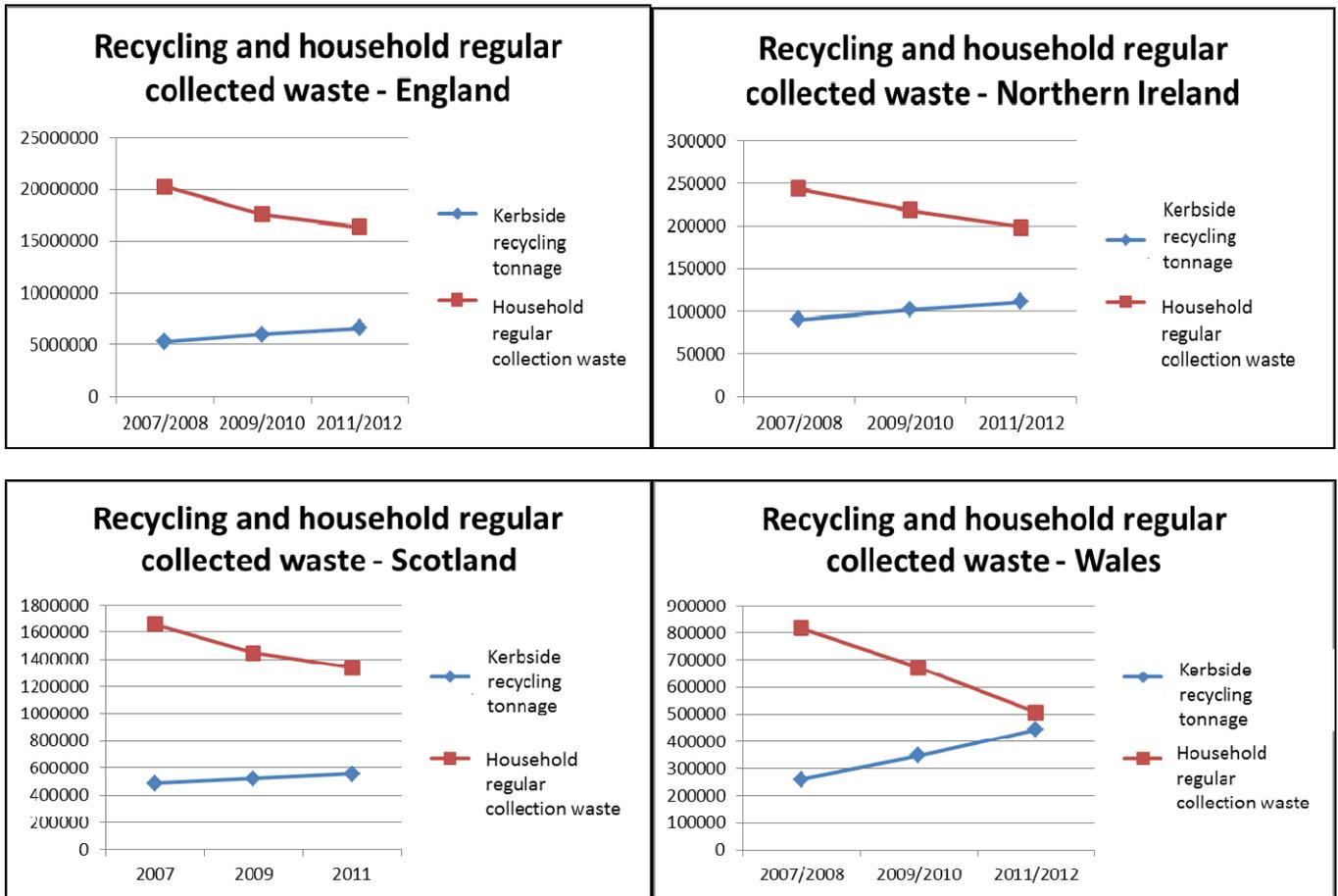
The analysis of the household tonnages handled by Civic Amenity sites across the countries shows that all four have seen a reduction in the household residual waste handled and an increase in the tonnages of materials recycled.

The following chart illustrates the level of recycling performance being achieved at civic amenity sites across the four countries.



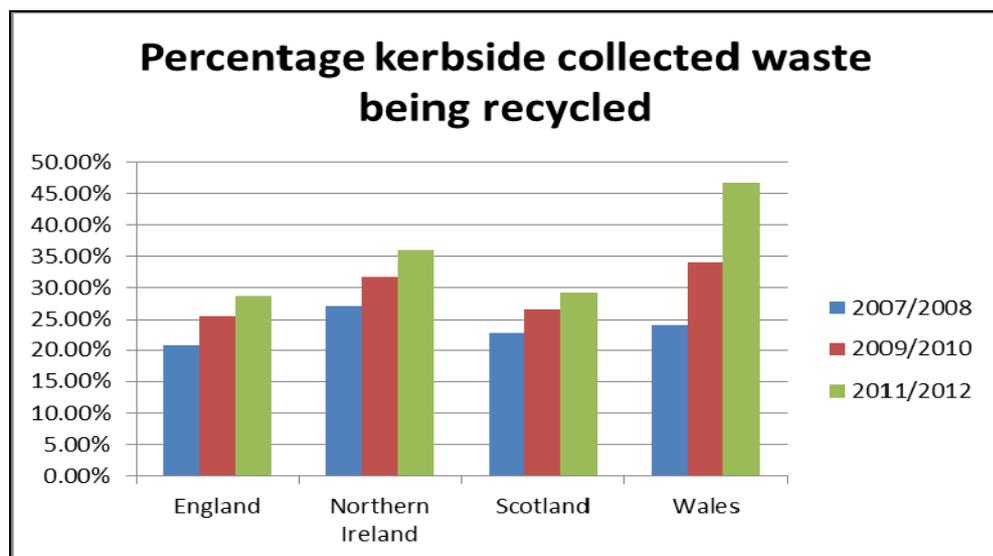
(Data obtained from the Wastedataflow Raw Data Summaries from Questions 16 and 23).

5. Kerbside Recycling



All the four countries show a similar pattern whereby household regular collected waste has reduced and recycling collections have increased.

The following chart illustrates the percentage kerbside collected waste being recycled across the four countries.

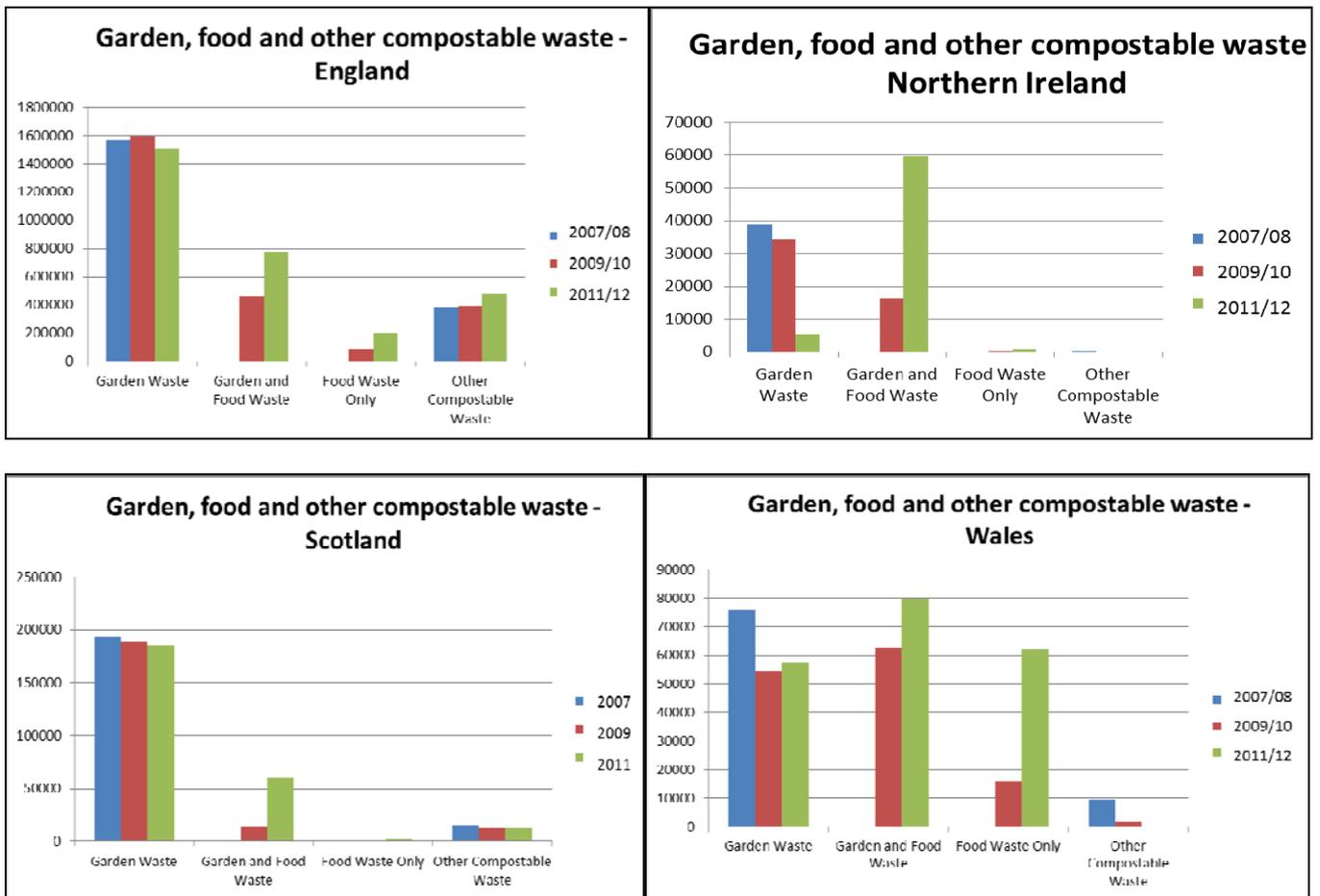


(Data obtained from Wastedataflow Raw Data Summaries from Questions 10 and 23.)

Following on from the previous analysis we are now attempting to delve into the individual types of materials collected at kerbside to try and establish if the regional policies from the four countries and the financial incentives available influence the materials collected.

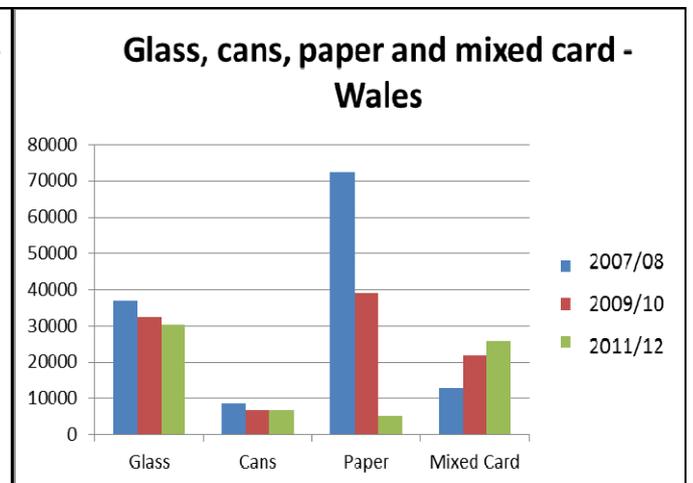
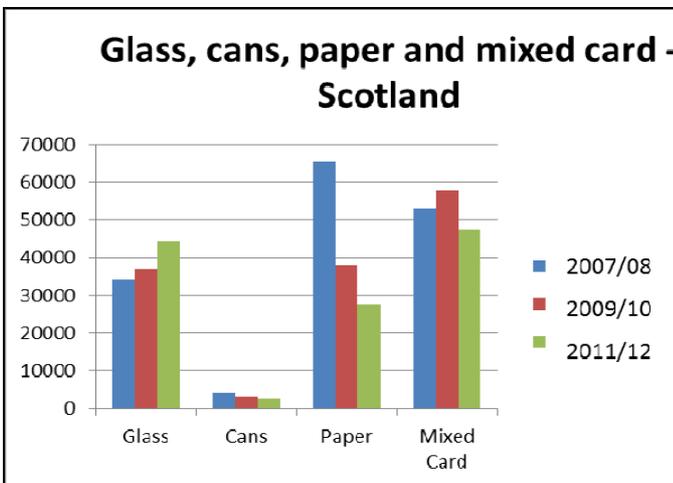
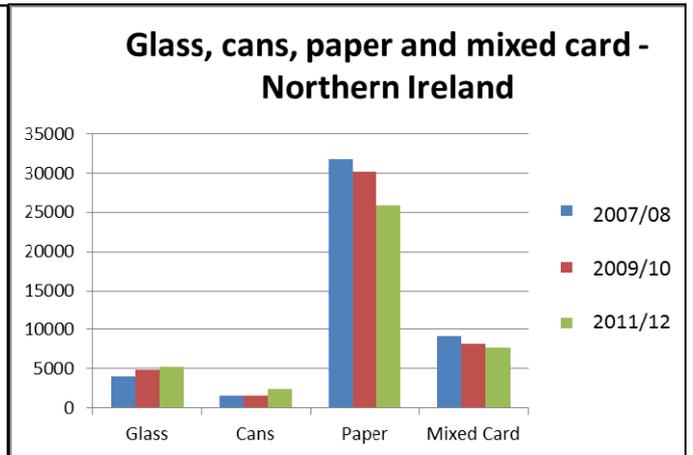
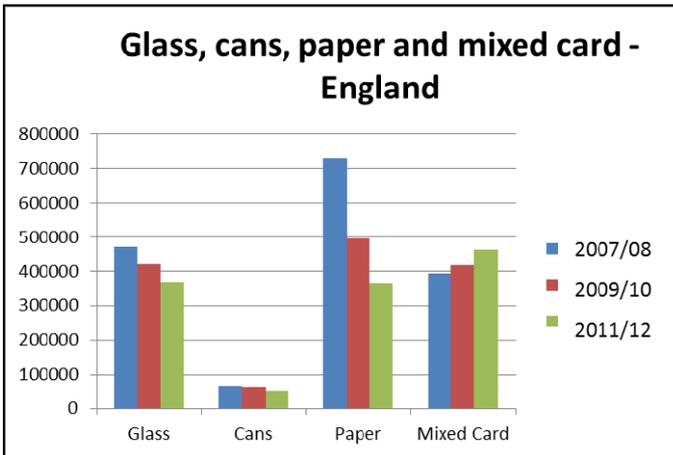
(Data obtained from Wastedataflow Raw Data Summaries from Question 10).

6. Garden, food & other compostable waste



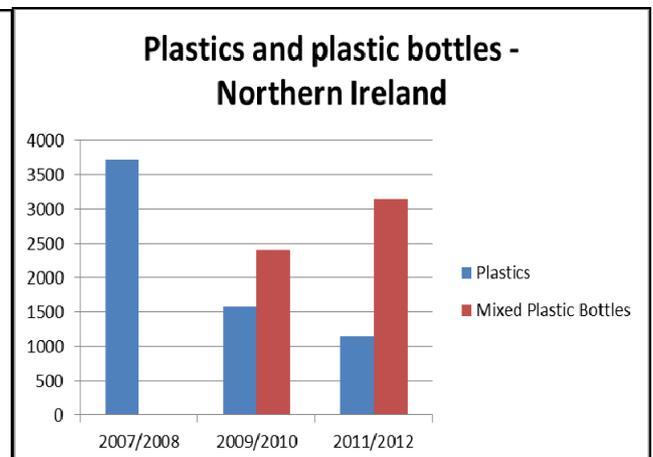
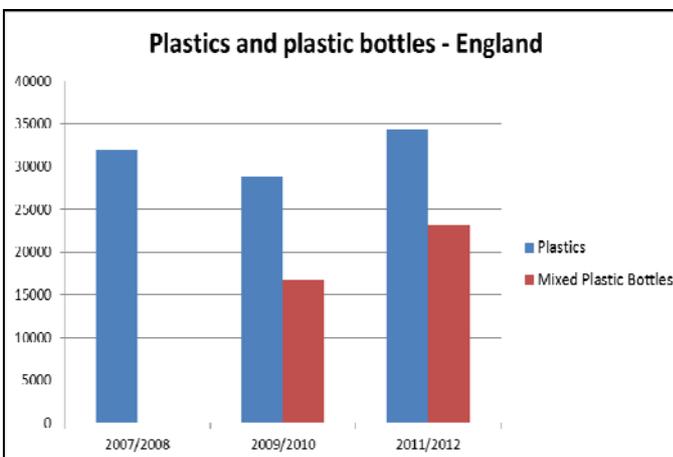
The analysis from the above illustrations indicates that the policies of introducing grants and financial incentives have totally influenced the collection and disposal policies around the countries (particularly in Wales with the finance available for food waste).

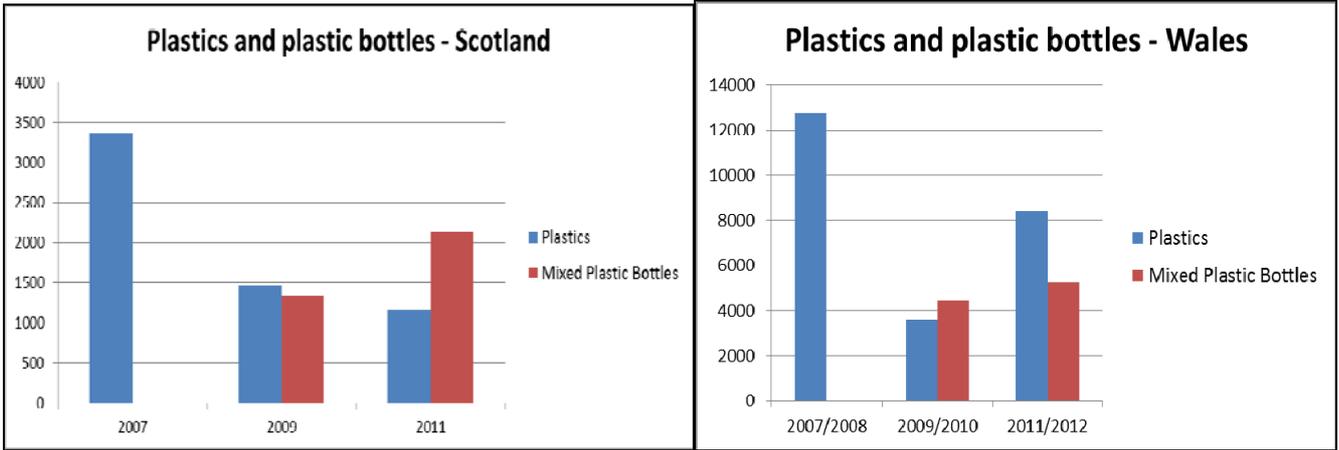
7. Glass, cans, paper & mixed card



The analysis from the above charts seems to indicate that the amount of paper collected from kerbside has reduced from all four countries, similarly glass and cans seem to have reduced, however the mixed paper and card varies between the countries.

8. Plastics and plastic bottles

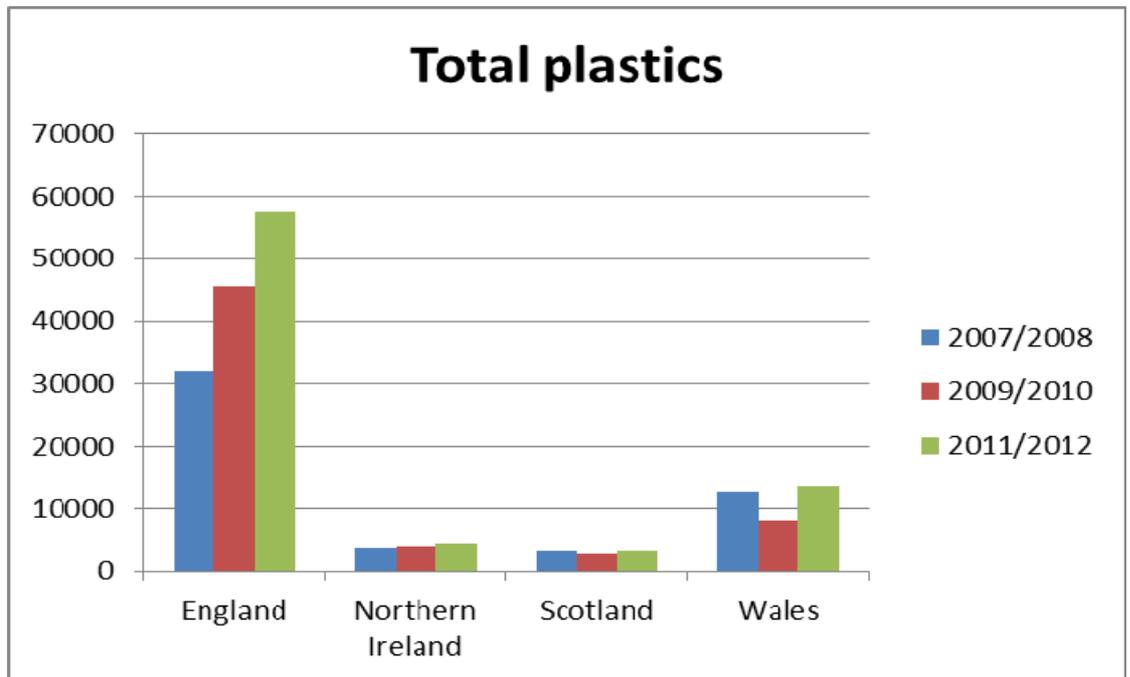




The reason for plastic bottles only to be identified separately from 2009 was that prior to 2009, all plastics were included as one item. In 2009 the materials collected was split on the wastedataflow returns to identify the individual materials.

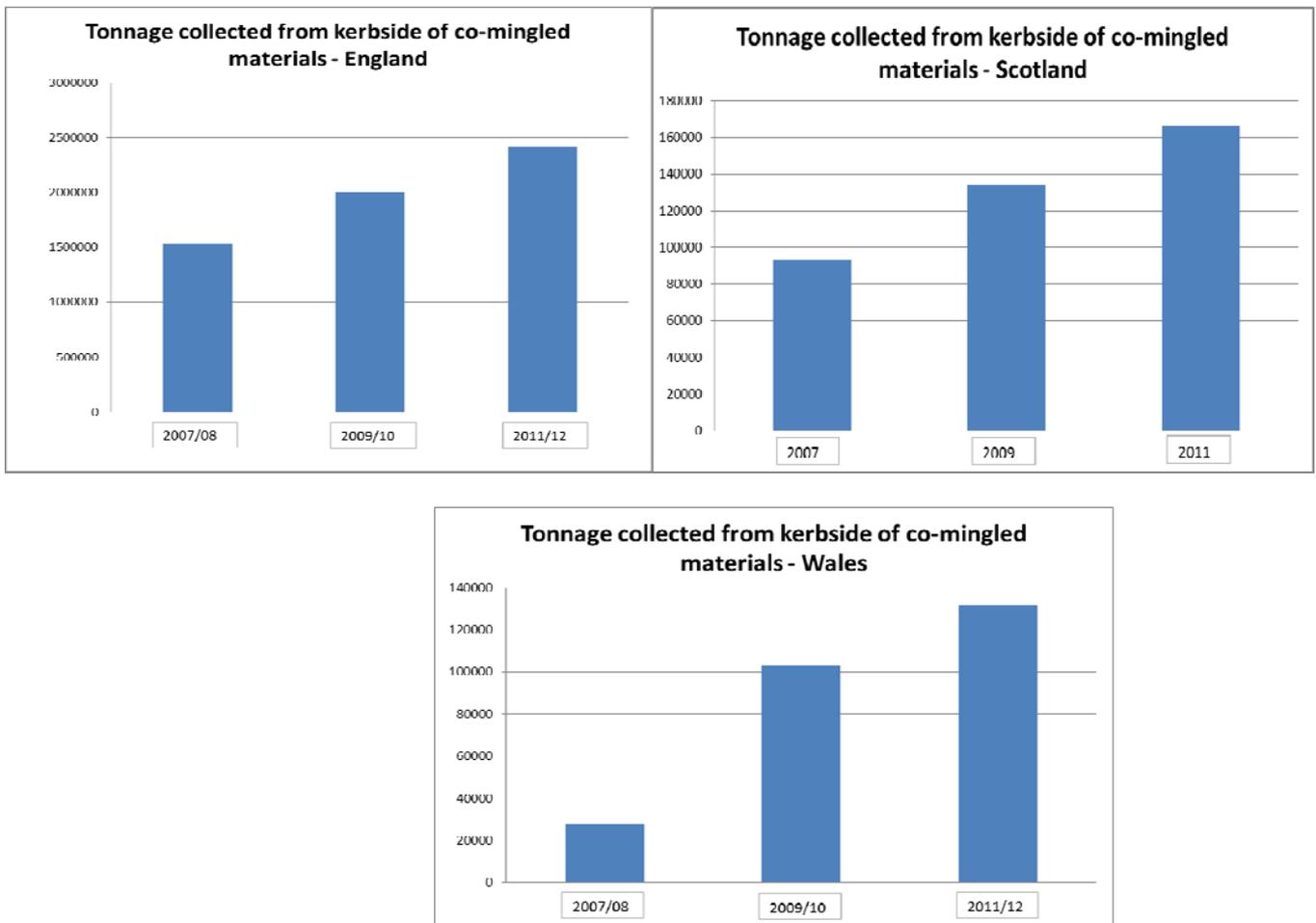
9. Total plastics

The following graph combines all the individual types of plastics collected into one total. As can be seen from the graph, the total number of plastics collected has increased between 2007/08 and 2011/12 for England, Northern Ireland and Wales. However, in Scotland, this number has remained fairly stable over this period and the number of plastics in 2011/12 is slightly lower than that in 2007/08.



10. Co-mingled collections

So finally we look at co-mingled collections to attempt to establish how co-mingled collections have changed throughout the countries to reflect if individual policies push authorities to collect source separated materials.



The above shows that irrespective of the policies, England, Scotland and Wales have increased their tonnage collected from kerbside of co-mingled materials. There is no information available with regards to Northern Ireland.

11. Conclusion

The above analysis provides members with an overview of municipal waste and recycling data for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It shows similarities in an increase in the percentage of materials recycled, including kerbside recycling and recycling at civic amenity sites; reductions in glass, cans and paper collected from the kerbside; and an increase in tonnages collected from the kerbside of co-mingled materials. There were differences in the trends between the countries on bring site recycling tonnages as well as tonnages of garden, food and other compostable waste (which seems to be influenced by grants and financial incentives).

This data has been extracted from Wastedataflow. Further trend performance data is available from APSE on cost, quality, productivity and customer satisfaction relating to refuse collection services through APSE's benchmarking service, performance networks, which also uses extracts data from Wastedataflow on recycling tonnages. If you would like further information on this, please contact performance.networks@apse.org.uk

Footnote

All the tonnage information has been accessed from the Summary Raw Data Reports which appear on the WasteDataFlow website. This data totally relies on the data entries from the local authorities into the appropriate questions. There have been significant changes in the way the Scottish authorities provide this data and additional questions have been added for Scotland only. This in effect makes the direct comparison between the countries difficult, regional policies in Scotland are changing the reporting structure of waste data.

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