

National Litter and Flytipping Strategy consultation report

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales

Key Issues:

The Scottish Government published an analysis report of the responses to their consultation on the National Litter and Flytipping Strategy. The main findings are summarised below.

Link to the full report: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-litter-flytipping-strategy-consultation-analysis-report/>

1.0 Introduction

A consultation on the National Litter and Flytipping strategy was open for 15 weeks from 13 December 2021 to 31 March 2022. 978 people responded to the consultation, and a report was drafted by Pye Tait Consulting on behalf of the Scottish Government. The findings are split into three strategic themes for littering and for flytipping – behaviour change, services and infrastructure, and enforcement.

2.0 Littering

Behaviour change

- 78% support conducting research to understand the full range of influences on littering behaviour (100% of local authorities supported this)

- 88% support developing and adopting a national anti-litter campaign (100% of local authorities supported this)
- 48% support the development of a standard definition of litter (83% of local authorities supported this)
- Most commenters felt that the education of school children on litter from an early age is a high priority. Many also felt that roads users should be part of behaviour change interventions as litter is a big issue there (particularly on motorways and laybys). Several also suggested interventions for waste produced by the fast food/takeaway industry. Other target items for future interventions included cigarette ends, disposable face masks and dog excrement.

Services and infrastructure

- 73% believe that a common approach to data collection between stakeholders would help provide a collective understanding between stakeholders would help provide a collective understanding of actions needing to be taken
- 68% support the creation of a national litter hub
- 82% support the development of a community focused litter education programme
- 93% support identifying commonly littered items and hotspots and working with local authorities to develop targeted interventions
- 69% support increasing the use of citizen science to support data levels

Enforcement

- 83% agree with the idea of alternative penalties such as litter picks
- 79% support the exploration of raising current fixed penalties
- 77% support reviewing and further developing guidance on enforcement best practices

3.0 Flytipping

Behaviour change

- 65% support research to understand the behaviour that leads to flytipping
- 78% support the creation of a national anti-flytipping campaign

- 81% support a single information point advising on the disposal of commonly flytipped materials
- 54% support the development of a standard definition of flytipping
- There were many suggestions for preventing future flytipping, these included reducing waste disposal costs at HWRCs and increasing their opening hours, increasing the number of public bins (and emptying them more frequently) as well as having stronger penalties for flytippers.

Services and infrastructure

- There was broad support by two thirds of respondents for establishing a national database to encourage the sharing of data and having organisations joining up their services to deal with recurring flytipping issues
- 79% support the mandatory reporting of flytipping incidents for statutory bodies

Enforcement

- Over 80% perceive current sanctions/monetary fines to be too small, and that fines should be larger, with some suggesting they are scalable to flytippers' profile (e.g. business, homeowner, repeated flytipper etc)

4.0 Impact assessments

- 73% are unable to comment whether the impact assessments are an accurate representation of the core issues and considerations, stating they lack sufficient time or knowledge to pass comment
- 55% are unable to comment on the findings from the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report; 39% agree with the report's recommendations

Comments were received from 44% of the respondents to the consultation who suggested additional proposals including:

- Alternative sanctions such as vehicle impounding or adding points to individuals' driving licence records, CCTV surveillance of flytipping hotspots, better regulation and monitoring of those who have licences for waste disposal, additional punitive actions to fines such as confiscating vehicles, tax investigations of individuals involved; better

organised waste disposal and recycling centres which are more affordable and accessible; better signposting of recycling centres; trackers fitted to business vans; the importance of education; a more consistent national approach to organising, recycling and disposing of general household waste; having more bins in strategic places such as bus stops; changing bin design to be more enclosed to reduce litter being spread by animals or wind, and driving a change in packaging towards recyclable materials.

5.0 APSE Comment

APSE encourages our members to engage fully with the contents of the report. A great deal of information sharing by local authorities has taken place in both the APSE Scotland Parks, Grounds and Streets advisory group and Litter Managers Network, both of which are free to attend for APSE members.

While a great amount of progress has been made on dealing with litter and flytipping despite dwindling local authority budgets, APSE hopes that the feedback from the consultation provided to the Scottish Government will spur positive change and give local authorities the tools and the funding they require to more effectively deal with illegal flytipping activities and to make further progress on tackling Scotland's problem with litter.

Reminder: APSE has set up a COVID-19 Information Hub to deal with frontline service issues as they arise, ensuring greater resilience and learning between each other during this difficult time. You can access this hub by clicking [here](#) and you can also join our WhatsApp Support Network by clicking [here](#).

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