



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## Fly-tipping statistics for England, 2019/20

This statistical notice provides statistics on fly-tipping incidents recorded by Local Authorities in England, for April 2019 to March 2020. It covers trends in the number of fly-tipping incidents, with a breakdown by land type, waste type and size. It also covers enforcement and prosecution actions undertaken for fly-tipping incidents. It excludes the majority of private-land incidents and large scale incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency.

The standard guidance to local authorities is to report on all incidents including both customer and staff reported incidents. We had been aware of a few local authorities who were not reporting all incidents or who had changed their basis of reporting.

For the 2019/20 reporting year we carried out an exercise with all local authorities to more fully and clearly understand the basis for reporting by each local authority. This confirmed that the majority (87%) of all local authorities are reporting all incidents.

**In order to have comparable data for 2019/20 and 2018/19 we have removed the previous adjustments made to the 2018/19 national figures.** These adjustments were made to those few local authorities that were known not to be reporting all incidents, but where the data was available to make the adjustments.

**The data presented in this notice for 2018/19 will not match those published previously.** Previously published figures for 2018/19 are available in the [dataset](#). For detailed information on these changes please see the [reporting basis](#) section.

Data on enforcement and prosecution actions are not affected.

### Impact of Covid-19 on fly-tipping

Only the last week of the 2019/20 reporting period (23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020) coincided with the national lockdown commencing on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. Therefore, we would not expect to see a noticeable impact of Covid-19 in the 2019/20 fly-tipping statistics.

### Key points

- For the 2019/20 year, local authorities in England dealt with just under **1 million (976,000) fly-tipping incidents, an increase of 2%** from the 957,000 reported in 2018/19.
- **Just under two thirds (65%)** of fly-tips involved **household waste**. Total incidents involving household waste were **632,000** in 2019/20, an **increase of 7%** from 588,000 in 2018/19.
- The **most common place** for fly-tipping to occur was on **highways (pavements and roads)**, which accounted for **over two fifths (43%)** of total incidents in 2019/20. In

2019/20, the number of highway incidents was 419,000, which was an **increase of 6%** from 396,000 in 2018/19.

- The **most common size category** for fly-tipping incidents in 2019/20 was equivalent to a **'small van load'** (34% of total incidents), followed by the equivalent of a **'car boot or less'** (28%).
- In 2019/20, 33,000 or 3% of total incidents were of 'tipper lorry load' size or larger, which is a decrease of 8% from 36,000 in 2018/19. For these **large fly-tipping incidents**, the cost of clearance to local authorities in England in 2019/20 was **£10.9 million**, compared with £12.8 million in 2018/19.
- Local authorities carried out **474,000 enforcement actions** in 2019/20, a **decrease of 26,000 actions (5%)** from 501,000 in 2018/19.
- The number of **fixed penalty notices** issued was **75,400** in 2019/20, a **decrease of 2%** from 77,000 in 2018/19. This is the second most common action (after investigations), and accounted for **16%** of all actions in 2019/20.
- The number of court fines issued **increased** from 2,056 (**30%**) to **2,671** in 2019/20, with the value of total fines **increasing to £1,170,000 (an increase of 7%** on the **£1,090,000** total value of fines in 2018/19).

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## Background on data reporting and data caveats

These data are based on incidents and actions reported through WasteDataFlow. The intention is to capture all incidents, whether reported by staff or customers, and actions dealt with by local authorities under Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act, 1990.

Local authorities gather their data from a number of different sources, and data can often be collected and reported by separate teams. There is a level of discretion in applying the reporting guidance. This can lead to some differences in how local authorities record incidents. The nature of fly-tipping means that there can be relatively high variation between years and between local authorities. Changes in data collection and reporting over time mean that trends should be interpreted with caution.

We had been aware of a small number of local authorities who have switched to only reporting customer or staff reported fly-tipping incidents for the detailed breakdown by local authority. We had been able to capture/reflect/estimate all incidents in the total incidents figure for England to retain consistency of the national headline figure. In 2018/19, Defra were aware that four local authorities had provided figures based on customer reported fly-tips only.

To determine the extent of this and to improve the transparency in reported data, Defra undertook an exercise with all local authorities for their 2019/20 data to ask whether they were reporting the number of incidents for customer reported, staff reported or both customer/public and staff reported incidents.

This has shown that the majority of local authorities are reporting all fly-tipping incidents, whether reported by staff or customers. Around 13% of local authorities reported that they were either just providing figures based on customer reported fly-tips only, or just those incidents reported by staff. In previous years, estimates were made for 'all incidents' for a very small number of local authorities where the figures provided were known not to be based on 'all incidents'; these estimated figures were included in the national incident totals.

It has not been possible to ask local authorities to resubmit data based on all incidents retrospectively, but we will be expecting local authorities to make all reasonable efforts to report all incidents in future years.

### Revisions

For the 2019/20 reporting we have been able to more clearly establish the basis of reporting for local authorities. In order to have a comparable reporting basis for 2019/20 and 2018/19 we have removed the previous adjustments made to the 2018/19 data. This means that for the revised 2018/19 and the 2019/20 national totals, these only include estimates for non-response and missing data. Data on enforcement and prosecution actions are not affected. The reporting basis for each local authority is available in the published [dataset](#)

Revisions have been made to 2018/19 incidents and actions data for the Isle of Wight, some actions data for Redbridge has also been included. Revisions were also made to incident and actions data for Redbridge for 2017/18. These revisions have been made due

to new or revised data being received after publication. For more detail please see the [revisions](#) section.

### **Assessing the figures**

In assessing the figures, local authorities should not be ranked or classified as 'good' or 'poor' performers based purely on numbers of fly-tips. Direct comparison between local authorities is not appropriate and especially where the local authority may be reporting on staff and/or customer incidents. The situation is complex and can be influenced by population density, housing stock, demographics, commuter routes, the rigour with which local authorities identify incidents or encourage the public to report incidents, training of street crews, and increased use of more sophisticated methods for capturing and reporting incidents. Those reporting higher incident numbers are often those being more pro-active and rigorous in identifying incidents. Large authorities may have large enforcement teams using modern, sophisticated methods (e.g. covert surveillance, SmartWater etc.) to catch professional fly-tippers.

Trends over time for a particular local authority may be a fairer comparison and a time series of total incidents for each local authority is available for [download](#). The detailed dataset makes clear the reporting basis for each local authority.

Cost data is only published for clearance costs for 'tipper lorry load' and 'significant/multi load' incident categories and enforcement costs for 'prosecutions' and 'injunctions' action categories, which are reported directly by local authorities

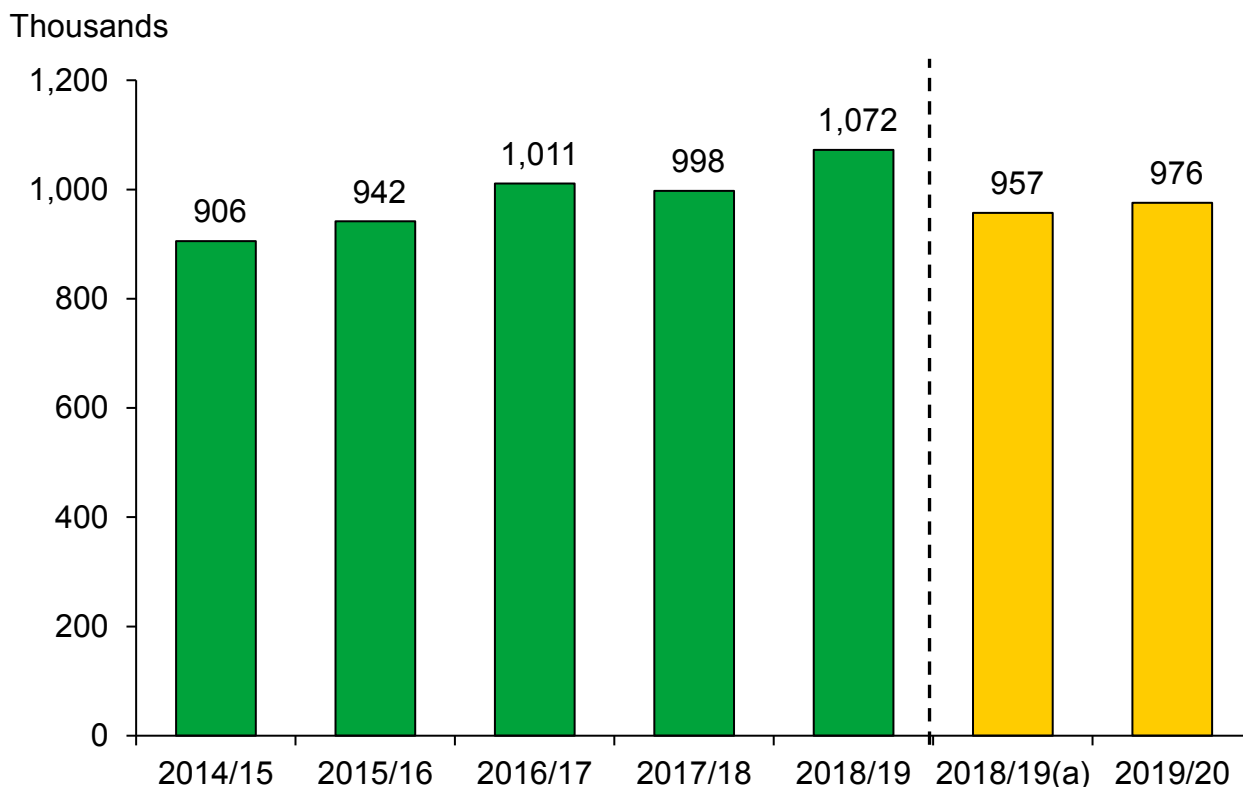
Please note that due to high numbers of incidents being reported as 'other unidentified' for land type and waste type in 2019/20, some caution is needed in the interpretation of year-on-year changes.

Percentage changes presented in this statistical notice are based on unrounded figures.

Further information about the data is available at the end of this release.

## 1. Total number of fly-tipping incidents in England

Figure 1.1 Total number of fly-tipping incidents in England, 2014/15 to 2019/20



Equivalent figures for 2007/08 to 2013/14 can be seen in the accompanying [dataset](#).

(a) Please note that the 2019/20 national totals for fly-tipping incidents are not comparable to earlier years due to methodological changes. These methodological changes have been applied to 2018/19. For detailed information on these changes please see the [reporting basis](#) section.

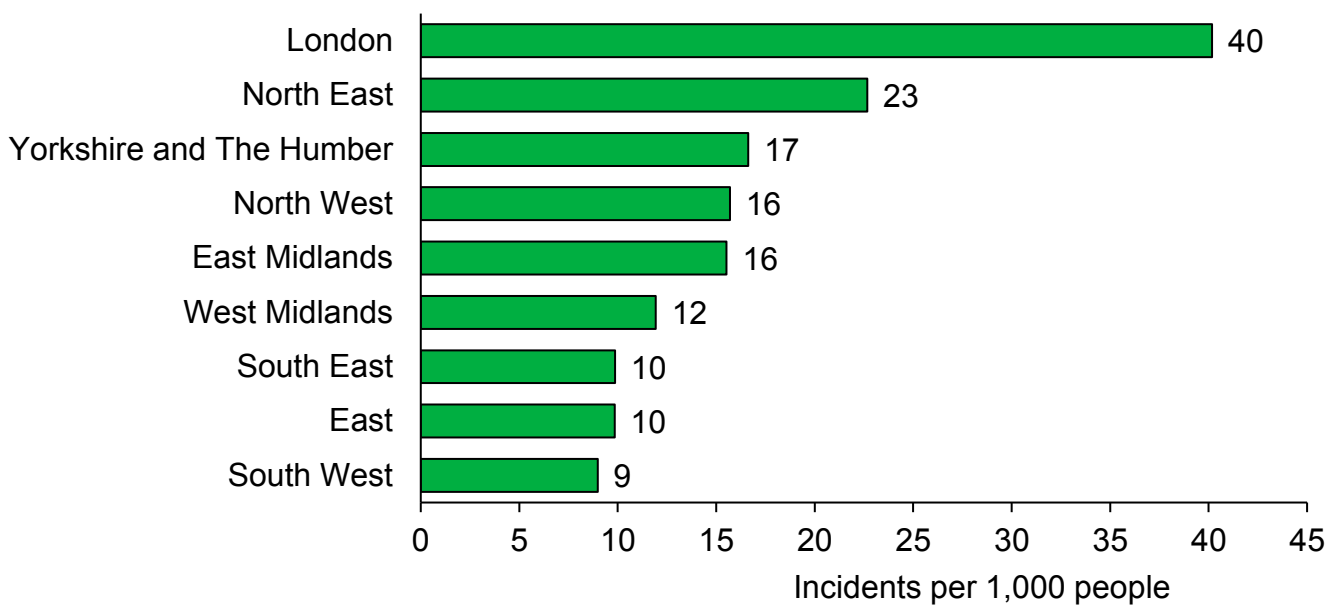
Please note that the 2019/20 national totals for fly-tipping incidents are not comparable to previously published data, due to methodological changes. These methodological changes have been applied to the 2018/19 data to enable comparisons to be made.

In 2019/20 there were 976,000 fly-tipping incidents reported, an increase of 2% from 957,000 in 2018/19.

Many local authorities have changed the way they capture and report fly-tips over the past few years, so the changes over time should be interpreted with some care. Defra is also aware that the definitions used to describe fly-tips in the guidance are interpreted broadly by local authorities.

Incidents involving the Environment Agency or cleared by private landowners are not included in this Notice. Details of the 230 incidents of large-scale, illegal dumping dealt with by the Environment Agency in 2019/20 are published separately. Please see the [dataset](#) published by the Environment Agency.

**Figure 1.2 Fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people in England by region, 2019/20**

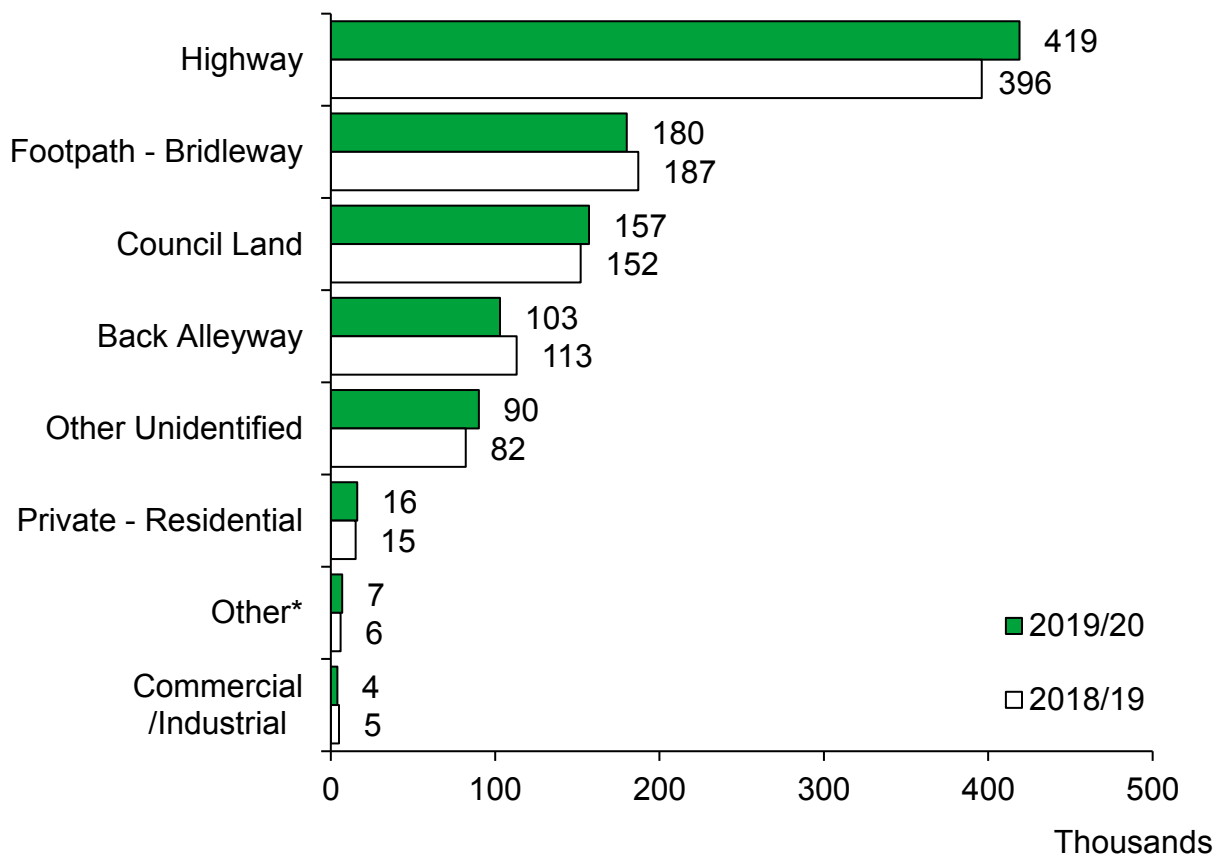


In 2019/20 there were on average 17 fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people in England. London had the highest average number of incidents per 1,000 people at 40, while the South West had the lowest at 9 incidents per 1,000 people.

Incidents per 1,000 people for each local authority have been included in the published [dataset](#) for 2019/20

## 2. Fly-tipping incidents in England by land type

Figure 2.1 Fly-tipping incidents by land type in England, 2019/20, compared to 2018/19.



\*Other includes agricultural, watercourse and railway.

Highways (pavements and roads) have consistently been the most common land type for fly-tipping incidents over time, accounting for over two fifths (43%) of all incidents in 2019/20. In 2019/20 there were 419,000 incidents, an increase of 6% from 2018/19 (396,000 incidents).

Fly-tipping on council land, and 'footpaths and bridleways', each made up around 17% of all incidents in 2019/20. Council land incidents increased by 3% to 157,000 incidents from 152,000, while footpath and bridleway' incidents decreased by 3% to 180,000 from 187,000 incidents.

Fly-tipping incidents in back alleyways amounted to a further 11% of all incidents (103,000 incidents) in 2019/20, a decrease of 8% from 113,000 in the previous year.

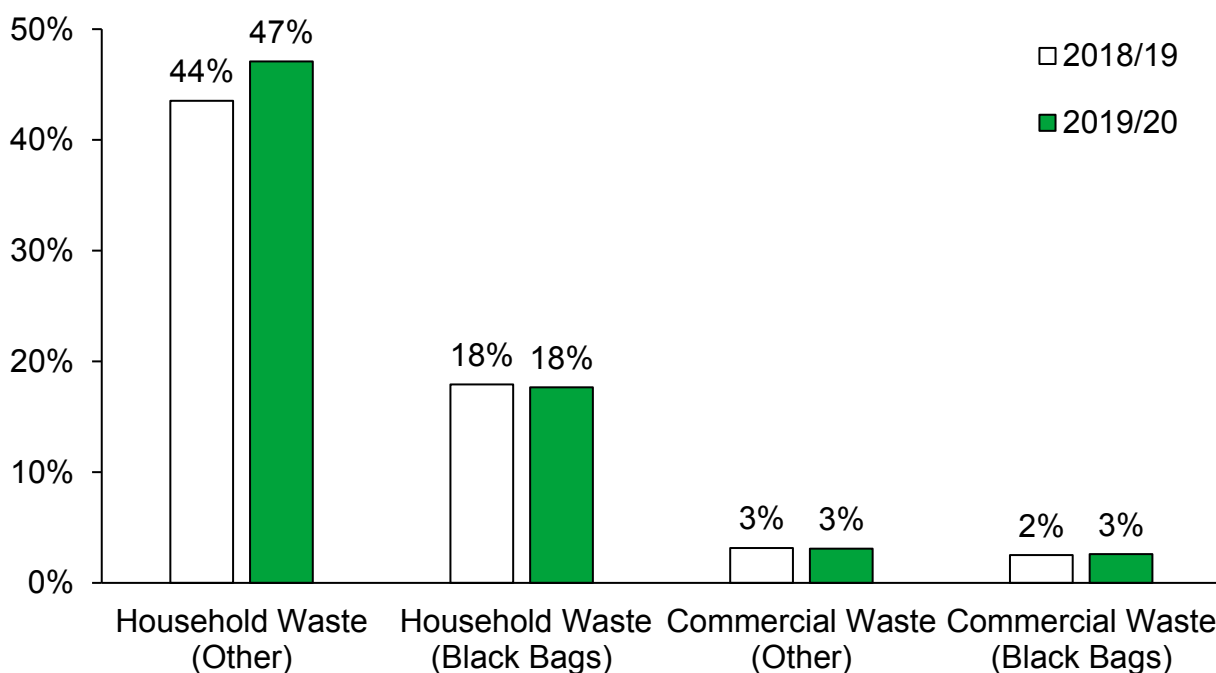


### 3. Fly-tipping incidents in England by waste type

Please note that due to high numbers of incidents being reported as ‘other unidentified’ for waste type in 2019/20, some caution is needed in the interpretation of year-on-year changes. In 2019/20, 113,000 incidents were reported as ‘other unidentified’; this type of waste accounted for 12% of total incidents.

Most fly-tipping incidents are household waste (the sum of ‘black bags’ and ‘other’), which in 2019/20 accounted for nearly two-thirds (65%) of all incidents. The majority of this was ‘household waste (other)’.

**Figure 3.1 Household and commercial waste in England, 2018/19 and 2019/20 (% of total incidents)**



**Household waste (other)** could include material from house or shed clearances, old furniture, carpets and the waste from small scale DIY works.

**Commercial waste (other)** could include pallets, cardboard boxes, plastics, foam and any other waste not contained in bags or containers and not due to be collected.

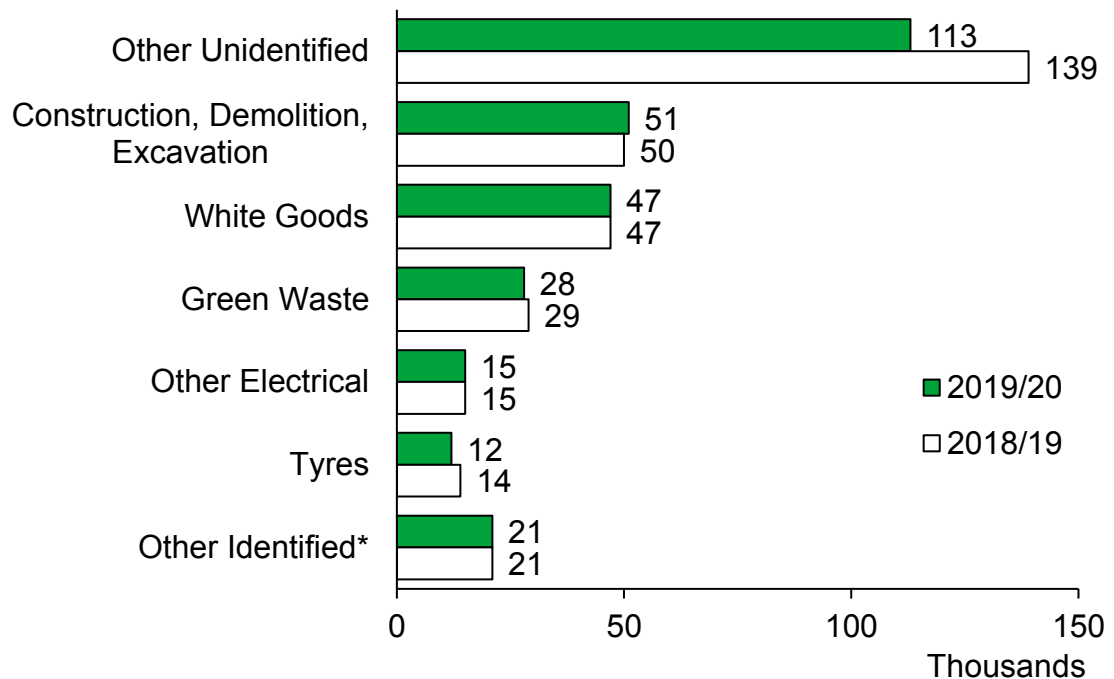
Total household waste increased by 7% from 588,000 incidents in 2018/19 to 632,000 incidents in 2019/20. The household waste sub-categories, ‘black bags’ and ‘other’ increased by 1,000 incidents (1%) and 43,000 incidents (10%), respectively.

There were 55,000 incidents involving commercial waste in 2019/20, accounting for 6% of total incidents. This was a slight (3%) increase from the 54,000 incidents reported in 2018/19. There were 25,000 incidents of commercial waste from black bags and 30,000 incidents of other commercial waste in 2019/20.

Types of fly-tipping, other than household and commercial waste – which are construction, demolition and excavation; other unidentified; white goods; green waste; other electrical; tyres; vehicles parts; animal carcasses; chemical drums, oil and fuel; clinical; and asbestos – amount to 30% of all fly-tipping incidents. Within this, vehicle parts, animal carcasses,

clinical waste, asbestos, and 'chemical drums, oil and fuel' incidents each account for less than 1% of total incidents.

**Figure 3.2 Types of other fly-tipping in England, 2019/20, compared to 2018/19**



\***Other Identified** includes vehicle parts, animal carcasses, clinical waste, asbestos, and 'chemical drums, oil and fuel'.

For some waste types, such as green waste or electrical goods, it is not always possible to tell whether they originated from households or businesses.

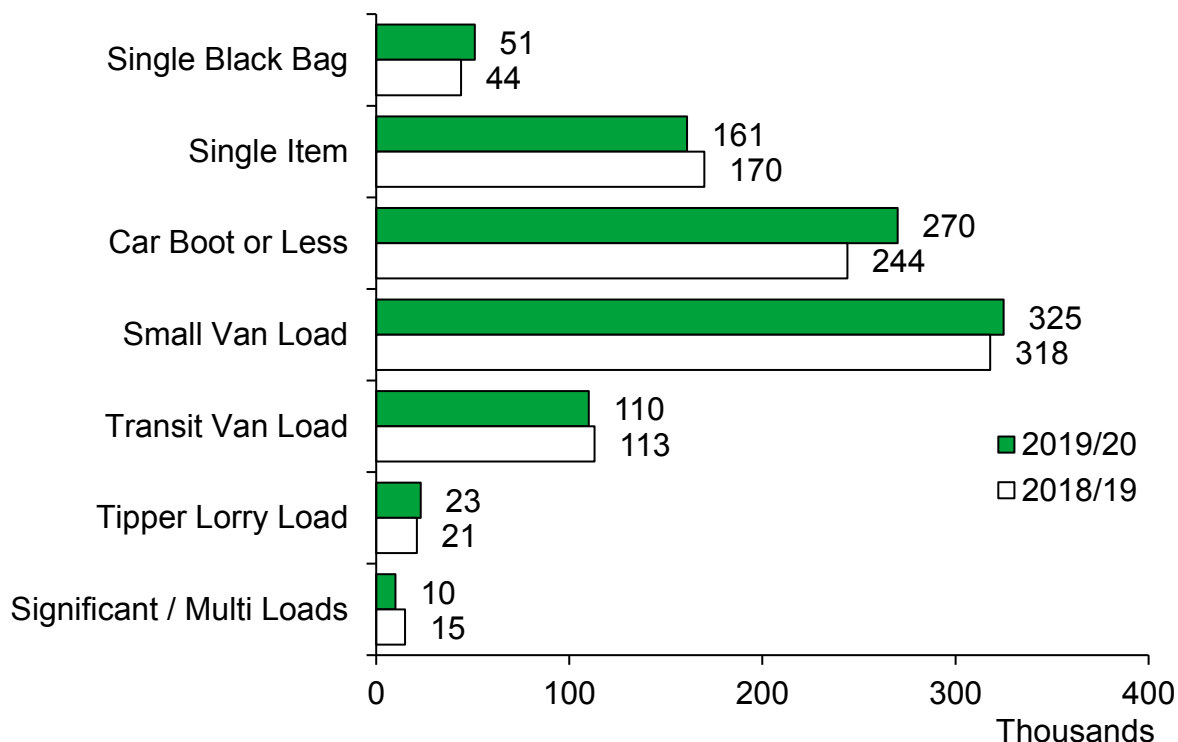
The number of white goods incidents in 2019/20 was 47,000, similar to 2018/19. White good incidents accounted for 5% of total incidents in 2019/20. Green waste accounted for 3% of total incidents in 2019/20. Tyre incidents accounted for around 1% of total incidents in 2019/20.

Incidents with construction/demolition/excavation material increased by 1%.

## 4. Fly-tipping incidents in England by size

Incidents recorded by size category relate to those investigated and cleared by the local authority. For a number of reasons, but primarily due to incidents on private land, which an authority may not clear, total incidents by size category will not match total incidents recorded by land type or waste type.

**Figure 4.1 Fly-tipping incidents by size in England 2019/20, compared to 2018/19**



As in 2018/19, 'small van load' was the largest size category in 2019/20, with around a third of incidents (34% or 325,000 incidents) reported being this size, this is a 2% increase on 318,000 incidents in 2018/19.

The second-largest size category is equivalent to a 'car boot or less'. Fly-tipping incidents of this size increased by 10% from 244,000 incidents in 2018/19 to 270,000 incidents in 2019/20, and made up 28% of all incidents.

'Single items', such as furniture, mattresses etc. accounted for 17% of total incidents and have decreased by 5%, from 170,000 incidents in 2018/19 to 161,000 in 2019/20.

In 2019/20 'Single black bag' size incidents accounted for 5% of total incidents and have increased by 17%, from 44,000 incidents in 2018/19 to 51,000 incidents in 2019/20.

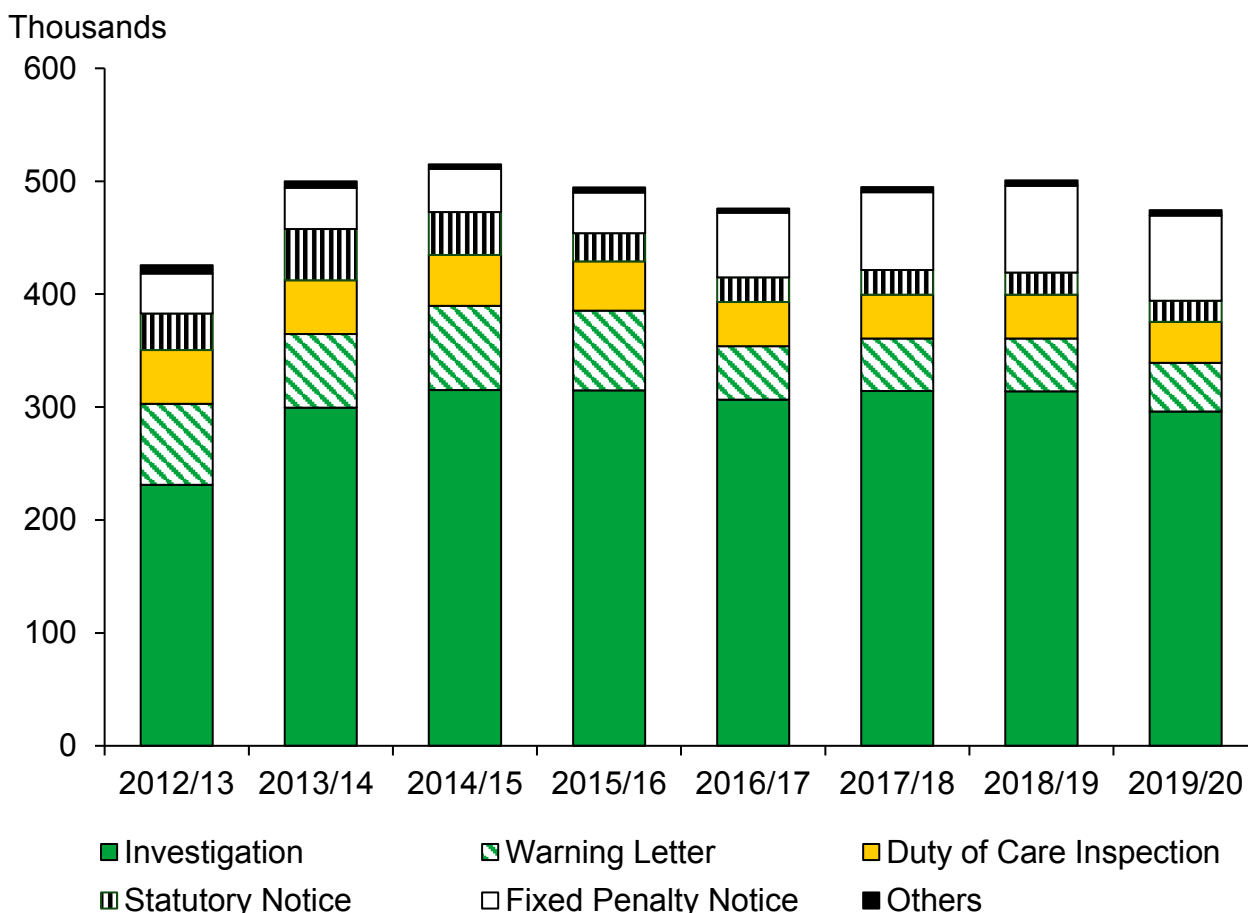
In 2019/20, 33,000 or 3% of total incidents were of 'tipper lorry load' size or larger, which is a decrease of 8% from 36,000 in 2018/19. For these large fly-tipping incidents, the cost of clearance to local authorities in England in 2019/20 was £10.9 million, compared with £12.8 million in 2018/19.

As noted above, we no longer produce estimates of clearance costs for other size categories.

## 5. Fly-tipping enforcement and prosecution

As previously mentioned, the 2019/20 national totals for fly-tipping incidents are not comparable to previously published data due to methodological changes. However, data on enforcement and prosecutions actions are not affected so the full time series is presented in this section.

**Figure 5.1 Fly-tipping enforcement actions in England, 2012/13 to 2019/20**



'Other' is the sum of stop and search, vehicles seized, formal caution, prosecution and injunction. Equivalent figures for 2007/08 to 2011/12 can be seen in the accompanying [dataset](#).

There were 474,000 enforcement actions carried out in England in 2019/20, a 5% decrease (of 26,000 actions) from 501,000 enforcement actions since 2018/19. It should be noted that multiple actions can sometimes be carried-out on one particular incident. Total enforcement costs have not been estimated for 2019/20 as accurate costs are not available for the majority of enforcement categories.

Investigations have consistently been the most common action taken against fly-tipping incidents over time, accounting for 62% of all actions in 2019/20, with 296,000 investigations in total. This is a decrease of 6% from 2018/19, where 314,000 investigations were carried out.

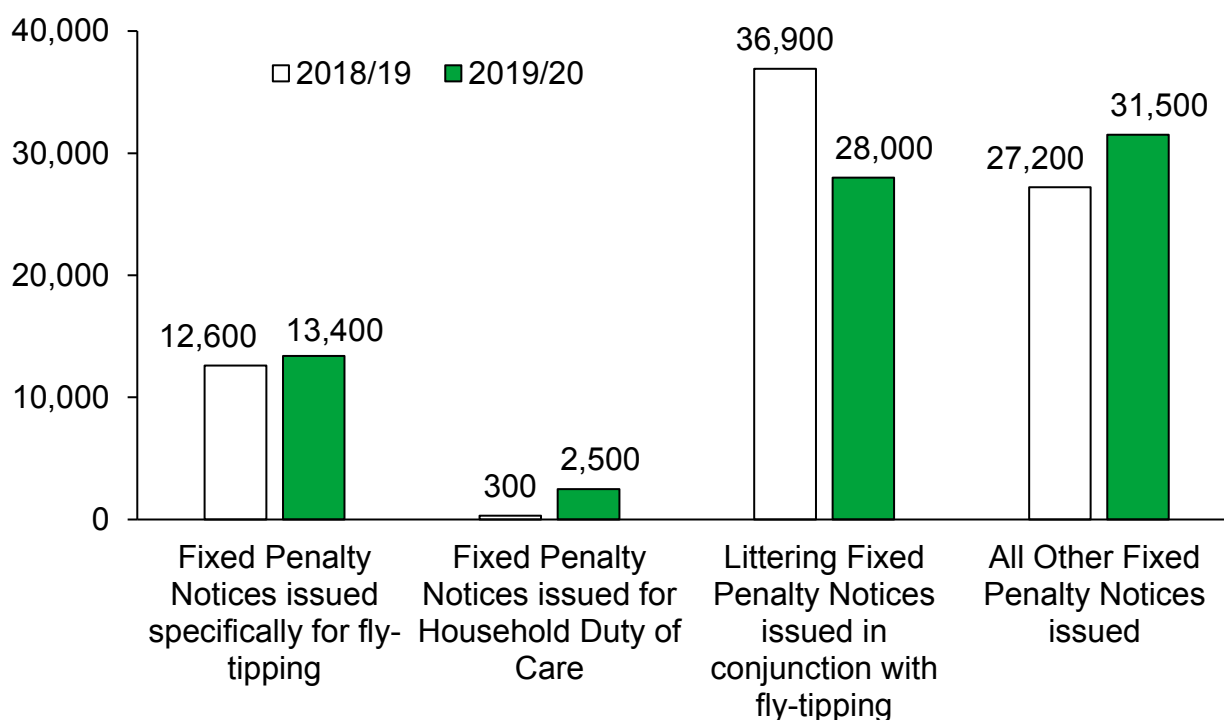
In May 2016 local authorities in England were given the power to issue fixed penalty notices for small scale fly-tipping. Prior to this date, local authorities issued fly-tippers with fixed penalty notices in relation to littering, duty of care or anti-social behaviour. This fixed

penalty notice gave local authorities a more specific fixed penalty notice type, an alternative to prosecutions and a more efficient and proportionate response to small scale fly-tipping. Local authorities are still also using the previous fixed penalty notices as well as the new ones in appropriate circumstances.

Further enforcement powers were given to local authorities and the Environment Agency in January 2019, who can now issue fixed penalty notices for breaches of householder duty of care, where householders pass their waste to an unlicensed waste carrier.

Local authorities issued 75,400 fixed penalty notices in total during 2019/20 and these were the second most common enforcement action, accounting for 16% of total actions. The total number of fixed penalty notices has decreased slightly by 2% from 77,000 in 2018/19.

**Figure 5.2 Number of Fixed Penalty Notices by type in England, 2019/20, compared to 2018/19**



Note: For 2018/19, FPNs related to householder duty of care relate only to January to March 2019 as these powers only came into force in January 2019.

For 2019/20, 13,400 (18%) of fixed penalty notices were issued specifically for small scale fly-tipping, 28,000 (37%) in relation to littering, 2,500 (3%) in relation to household duty of care and 31,500 (42%) in relation to other offences.

The number of prosecution actions has increased (by 23%), from 2,400 in 2018/19 to 2,900 in 2019/20.

There were 43,000 warning letters issued in 2019/20, a decrease of 8% from 47,000 in 2018/19. Warning letters accounted for 9% of total enforcement actions in 2019/20.

The number of duty of care inspections fell by 7% in 2019/20, from 39,000 inspections to 36,000 inspections. This accounted for 8% of total enforcement actions in both 2019/20 and 2018/19.

A total of 19,000 statutory notices were issued in 2019/20, accounting for 4% of total enforcement actions. This was a decrease of 5% from the 20,000 statutory notices issued in 2018/19.

**Table 5.1 Fly-tipping prosecution outcomes in England, 2012/13 to 2019/20**

	Fine	Absolute/ Conditional Discharge	Other (successful outcomes)*	Community Service	Custodial Sentence	Cases Lost	Total Prosecutions	Successful Prosecutions
<b>2012/13</b>	1,839	165	106	16	18	23	2,170	98.8%
<b>2013/14</b>	1,685	183	56	19	10	36	2,002	97.6%
<b>2014/15</b>	1,492	128	95	35	21	31	1,810	97.8%
<b>2015/16</b>	1,838	136	67	32	18	44	2,203	94.9%
<b>2016/17</b>	1,318	93	81	26	28	56	1,571	98.4%
<b>2017/18</b>	1,938	66	112	45	25	58	2,243	97.5%
<b>2018/19</b>	2,056	80	108	40	26	101	2,401	96.2%
<b>2019/20</b>	2,671	58	95	44	41	50	2,944	98.8%

**Other successful:** Any other positive results awarded by the court this period.

**Successful prosecutions:** Presented as a percentage of total prosecutions.

Equivalent figures for 2007/08 to 2011/12 can be seen in the accompanying [dataset](#).

Costs of prosecution actions increased, by 17% from £1,003,000 in 2018/19 to £1,171,000 in 2019/20.

The success rates for prosecution actions against fly-tipping are consistently very high over time. Over 98% of prosecutions resulted in conviction in 2019/20.

The majority of prosecution outcomes are fines, which were issued for 90% of the prosecutions taken against fly-tipping incidents in 2019/20. The number of fines issued increased by 30%, from 2,056 in 2018/19 to 2,671 in 2019/20, with the value of total fines increasing to £1,170,000 (an increase of 7% on the £1,090,000 total value of fines in 2018/19).

The number of community service outcomes increased 10% from 40 in 2018/19 to 44 in 2019/20.

## What you need to know about this release

### Contact details

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### Official Statistics

This is an Official Statistics publication. These statistics have been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, which sets out eight principles including meeting user needs, impartiality and objectivity, integrity, sound methods and assured quality, frankness and accessibility. For more information, please see the [Official Statistics Code of Practice](#)

### About these statistics

Fly-tipping is the illegal deposit of waste on land, contrary to Section 33(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Local authorities and the Environment Agency both have a responsibility in respect of illegally deposited waste. This includes local authorities and the Environment Agency collecting and reporting data on fly-tipping in their area. This statistical notice covers data reported by local authorities in England.

### User Statement

Data on fly-tipping is collected to inform policy making and to provide local authorities with a management tool that enables a problem solving approach to be taken. It records the number of fly-tipping incidents, the type of material tipped, location and size, together with enforcement action taken. The data are used by local and central government, researchers and the public.

### Context

Fly-tipping is a crime, a significant blight on local environments; a source of pollution; a potential danger to public health; a hazard to wildlife, and a nuisance. It also undermines legitimate waste businesses where unscrupulous operators undercut those operating within the law.

Local authorities and the Environment Agency both have a responsibility in respect of illegally deposited waste with certain obligations set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Local authorities have a duty to clear fly-tipped material from relevant land in their areas and consequently they deal with the vast majority of fly-tipping on public land, investigating these and carrying out a range of enforcement actions. The Environment Agency is responsible for dealing with large-scale, serious and organised illegal dumping incidents which pose an immediate threat to human health or the environment. Responsibility for dealing with fly-tipping on private land rests with private landowners and is not subject to mandatory data reporting.

Incidents involving the Environment Agency or cleared by private landowners are not included in this Notice. Details of the 230 incidents of large-scale, illegal dumping dealt

with by the Environment Agency in 2019/20 are published separately. Please see the [dataset](#) published by the Environment Agency.

## Methodology

These statistics are based on the returns made to the Fly-tipping Module in the [WasteDataFlow](#) database by local authorities in England from April 2019 to March 2020. The Fly-tipping Module is the national system used since 2015 to record the incidents and cost of clearing and enforcing against illegally deposited waste by local authorities and the Environment Agency. [Detailed guidance](#) is available on the use of WasteDataFlow. Private landowners are not required to report fly-tips on their land, although some choose to do so voluntarily.

It should be noted that the private land data included in this notice do not reflect the full scale of fly-tipping on private land, as most cases go unreported.

The reporting system has been modified to allow more detailed information capture on the individual types of fixed penalty notices issued by local authorities. This has included fixed penalty specifically for small scale fly-tipping which were introduced in May 2016 and more recently fixed penalty notices for breaches of householder duty of care which came into force in January 2019.

Local authorities gather their data from a number of sources and departments. Incidents are reported by the public through call centres or online, operatives on the ground collecting and recording, Enforcement Officers, contractors and management companies. Many authorities await verification from investigations before recording public reports as fly-tips.

Data are requested in respect of incidents cleared or investigated by local authorities and, separately, the enforcement actions taken against fly-tippers. These can often be collected and reported by separate teams. Therefore, data can be entered onto the system by one or more persons within an authority. This may lead to some discrepancies and a level of uncertainty. Data verification and quality assurance is carried out by WasteDataFlow personnel and Defra. This is done by a quarterly check of specific aspects of the data to identify significant anomalies which would be queried with authorities.

Until 2017/18, estimate costs for the majority of clearance and enforcement categories were calculated based on typical unit costs for dealing with the different types of incidents/actions. Costs were provided by a small selection of local authorities between 2003 and 2006 when the Flycapture database was being set up. These were used to generate standard unit costs for the clearance and enforcement categories, which were then multiplied up by the numbers of incidents and enforcement actions respectively, in order to generate total cost estimates. The standard unit costs used are detailed in the accompanying notes to the published datasets.

In August 2015 Defra undertook an exercise to update the cost basis by surveying 100 local authorities that had previously indicated a willingness to participate. Unfortunately, both the quantity and quality of response data was insufficient to provide robust factors as replacements. During 2017, Defra carried out some preliminary investigations to source updated costs, but concluded that more targeted and detailed work is required to properly understand the complexities surrounding costs to local authorities. As the standard unit



costs are now more than 10 years out of date, the decision has been taken to cease using these from the 2017/18 publication onwards. For the time being only costs for clearance categories 'tipper lorry load' and 'significant/multi loads', and enforcement categories 'prosecutions' and 'injunctions' (which are reported directly by local authorities) will continue to be published. Defra is currently considering the feasibility of updating the standard unit costs via research or alternative methodology, subject to resource and other priorities.

### **Detailed breakdowns**

A breakdown of data for each local authority is available on the [Defra website](#). In assessing the figures local authorities should not be ranked or classified as 'good' or 'poor' performers based purely on numbers of fly-tips. Direct comparison between local authorities is not appropriate, as there can be some differences in approach where there is a level of discretion in using the guidance on reporting. The situation is complex and can be influenced by population density, housing stock, demographics, commuter routes, the rigour with which local authorities identify incidents or encourage the public to report incidents, training of street crews, and increased use of more sophisticated methods for capturing and reporting incidents. Those reporting higher incident numbers are often those being more pro-active and rigorous in identifying incidents. Large authorities may have large enforcement teams using modern, sophisticated methods (e.g. covert surveillance, SmartWater etc.) to catch professional fly-tippers. Trends over time for a particular local authority may be a fairer comparison and a time series of total incidents for each local authority is available for download. There can be relatively high variation between years and between local authorities.

As part of enquiries made during the quality assurance process, several authorities reported that the increase in the number of incidents reported compared to previous years was a result of the introduction of new technologies; such as on-line reporting and electronic applications, as well as increased training for staff and a more pro-active approach to removing fly-tipping. These authorities have explained this as a factor in the increase in the number of incidents reported.

For 2019/20, incidents per 1,000 people for each local authority have been included in the published [dataset](#).

### **Reporting basis**

Under Section 71(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 local authorities are required to report information on fly-tipping incidents and actions taken through WasteDataFlow. Details of all fly-tipping incidents, reports, and actions should be reported via WasteDataFlow, including customer reported and those reported by, and pro-actively cleared by staff and contractors.

We had been aware of a few local authorities who were not reporting all incidents or who had changed their basis of reporting.

For the 2019/20 reporting year, Defra undertook a check with all local authorities around the basis of reporting in order to improve transparency in the reported data. An additional question was added to WasteDataFlow to capture the reporting basis for each local authority. The question included was as follows:

*The data entries in the Fly-tipping module is a record of fly-tipping offences under s33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. We want you to record information for all relevant incidents and actions covering both public reported and those pro-actively cleared by your own and contractors crews. Please select the description that best describes the coverage of your reporting of Fly-tipping incidents and actions:*

- 1. All incidents i.e. customer/public reported and those reported by, and pro-actively cleared by, your own and contractor crews.*
- 2. Customer/public reported only*
- 3. Staff/contractor and pro-actively cleared only.*

This confirmed that the majority (277; 87%) of all local authorities are reporting all incidents; 36 (11%) are providing figures based on customer reported fly-tips only, 3 (1%) are providing figures based just on those incidents reported by staff and 1 local authority changed their basis of reporting during 2019/20.

In previous years, estimates were made for 'all incidents' for a small number of local authorities where it was known that the local authorities reported figures were not based on 'all incidents'. These estimated figures were included in the national incident totals but not in the local authority level dataset.

For 2019/20, for those local authorities that are not reporting 'all incidents', no estimates have been made for 'all incidents'. This was due to the number of local authorities concerned and lack of data to make reliable estimates for 'all incidents'. This means that the national totals for 2019/20 are not comparable to national totals from earlier years. In order to have comparable data for 2019/20 and 2018/19 we have removed the previous adjustments made to the 2018/19 national figures. These adjustments were made to those few local authorities that were known not to be reporting all incidents, but where the data was available to make the adjustments.

For the revised 2018/19 and the 2019/20 national totals, these only include estimates for non-response and missing data.

The questions on reporting basis have been retained in WasteDataFlow to enable Defra to continue to monitor the basis of reporting. We will be encouraging local authorities to make all reasonable efforts to report all incidents in future years.

Data on enforcement and prosecution actions is not affected by the methodological change and the time series is presented in this notice.

### **Non-response and estimation**

In 2019/20, all 317 local authorities provided data on fly-tipping incidents and actions. In previous years this was not the case and estimates were made for missing returns.

For 2019/20, twelve of the 317 local authorities did not submit data on clearance costs for 'tipper lorry load' and/or 'significant/multi load' incidents for some or all quarters. These were estimated by Defra based on previous quarters' data where the figures were consistent, or using average 2019/20 unit costs from the known returns or otherwise using an average of previous years' data for these LAs. These twelve local authorities were Arun, Aylesbury Vale, Brentwood, Bristol, Hammersmith and Fulham, Herefordshire,

Nottingham, Somerset West and Taunton, South Cambridgeshire, South Kesteven, South Northamptonshire and Uttlesford.

Three out of the 317 local authorities did not submit data on enforcement costs for 'prosecutions'. These were estimated based on using average 2019/20 unit costs from the known returns or otherwise looking at average costs for the LA from previous years. These three local authorities were Bolton, Sedgemoor and Tunbridge Wells.

Estimates for clearance, enforcement costs and non-response are included in the national totals but are not shown in the local-authority dataset.

Due to higher levels of estimation made from the 2015/16 data, some caution is needed in the interpretation of year-on-year changes.

### **Feedback**

We welcome feedback on the data from all users including how and why the data is used. This helps us to understand the value of the statistics to external users. Please see our contact details section of this notice.

### **Revisions Policy**

Defra will provide information about any revisions made to published information in this statistics release and the associated datasets. Revisions could occur for various reasons, including when data from third parties is unavailable or revised data has been input to the Fly-tipping Module of WasteDataFlow.

Prior to the release of this publication, Defra noticed that previously missing quarters of data had been entered into WasteDataFlow for two local authorities. Isle of Wight had submitted missing data for 2018/19 and Redbridge submitted missing data for 2017/18. Redbridge additionally provided data for 2018/19 for two quarters, the actions data has been updated to reflect this but as only two quarters of data is available for 2018/19 the original estimates for incidents have been maintained in this release.

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