

Stephanie
[my email address]

Our ref: ER/16/005281/11

21 February 2011

Dear Stephanie

Thank you for your letter of 27 January to Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, regarding the frequency of bin collections. This has been passed to me for reply due to my responsibility in this area.

Eric Pickles stated on 18 June 2010 that Government would work with councils to freeze council tax and help them improve the frequency of rubbish and recycling collections. Regular bin collection is one of the most basic and universal services that council tax payers fund. Against that background, all councils need to take notice of public concerns and should do everything they can to ensure regular waste collections. I am sure your council, like Government, wants public services to be “user focussed”. That must mean being constantly prepared to review the way they do things.

This Department is working closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) as part of its Waste Review, to look at how Government can work with local councils to increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections; and make it easier to recycle, to tackle measures which encourage councils specifically to cut the scope of collections and to abolish ‘Bin Taxes’, which unfairly penalise people and encourage fly-tipping. The Waste Review will also look at ways of working more closely with businesses to help reduce waste going to landfill.

Like you, Minister’s believe that if residents expect a weekly, high-quality waste and recycling service then councils should identify the best way to deliver that. I hope this goes some way to answering your queries.

Yours sincerely,

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Local Government Procurement