

## Local Authority Waste Survey Results: week commencing 1 March 2021

- Results are based on a voluntary sample of Local Authorities (LAs) taken in the week commencing 1 March 2021. The sample size varies for each survey.
- Respondents are asked to compare services with a ‘normal’ period having regard to usual seasonal variations.
- Responses represent best reasonable estimates at the date and time the survey is completed, and for some Local Authorities (LAs), may be reported with a week’s lag.
- Percentages throughout this document may not sum to totals due to rounding.
- Please note that this is a revised version of this report. In the previous version, within the chart on ‘Changes in waste arisings: comparison to previous weeks’, the categories ‘large increase’ and ‘significant increase’ were interchanged. In the table on ‘Changes to waste arisings: most recent week’, the categories ‘+100% increase’ and ‘50-100% increase’ were interchanged. These errors have now been corrected.

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# Collection Services

## Collection: comparison with previous weeks



\*Dates given as 'week commencing...'

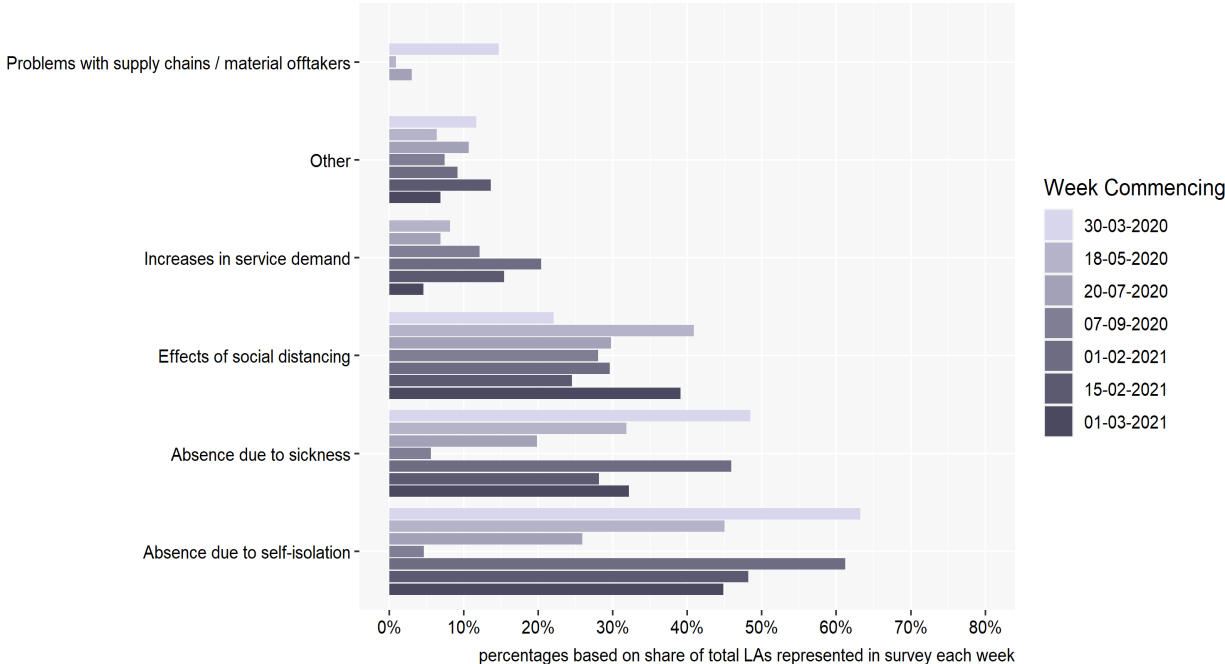
### Collection: most recent week

	Operating normally	Minor disruption	Moderate disruption	Severe disruption	Service not available
Residual	79%	21%	0%	0%	0%
Recycling	77%	10%	13%	0%	0%
Food	65%	35%	0%	0%	0%
Garden	74%	24%	0%	0%	2%
Clinical	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Commercial	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bulky	76%	23%	0%	0%	1%
Street Sweeping	85%	13%	2%	0%	0%
Bring Banks	94%	6%	0%	0%	0%
Fly Tip Clearance	84%	16%	0%	0%	0%

- Residual waste:** 79% of Waste Collection Authorities/Unitary Authorities (WCAs/UAs) responding to our survey in the W/C 1 March 2021 providing residual waste collections, report these to be operating as normal. This is a slight increase from 76% reported in the previous survey in the W/C 15 February 2021.
- Recycling:** 77% recycling collections provided are reported in the W/C 1 March 2021 by responding authorities to be operating as normal, up from 69% in the previous survey. All recycling services are reported to be currently available.
- Food waste:** A total of 65% authorities responding to our survey in the W/C 1 March 2021 and who provide food waste collections, report these to be operating as normal. This is down from 72% in the W/C 15 February 2021.
- Garden waste:** 74% of garden waste collection services are reported to be operating as normal in the W/C 1 March 2021. This is a significant increase from 64% in the last survey. Moderate disruption has dropped down from 12% to 0%, but 2% of services are still unavailable.
- Clinical waste:** Consistently reported to be the least disrupted collection service, all (100%) clinical waste collections are reported to be operating as normal in the W/C 1 March 2021. This is the same level as in the last survey.
- Commercial waste:** In W/C 1 March 2021, no authorities report disruption to commercial waste collections, up from 98% that reported no disruption in the previous survey.

- **Bulky collections:** 76% of LAs report that bulky waste collections are operating as normal in the W/C 1 March 2021, with the majority of the remainder reporting minor levels of disruption. This is a significant increase from 65% that reported to be operating as normal in the previous survey. Only 1% report services to be currently unavailable.
- **Street sweepings:** The vast majority (85%) of responding authorities in the W/C 1 March 2021 report that street-sweeping and litter collection services are operating as normal. A very slight drop compared to the previous survey (87%).
- **Bring banks:** The majority (94%) of responding LAs report bring banks services they provide to be operating as normal in the W/C 1 March 2021. This is an increase from 80% reported in the last survey.
- The vast majority (84%) of **fly-tipping clearance** collections are reported to be operating as normal in the W/C 1 March 2021. 16% are reported to be in operation, but with minor disruption. In the previous survey (W/C 15 February) these levels were 86% and 9% respectively.

## Collection: reasons for service changes



- In the W/C 1 March 2021, the greatest reported cause for disruption to collection services by responding authorities is formed by the **absence due to self-isolation**. This is identified by 44% of responding authorities providing waste collection services. This is a drop compared to 48% of responding LAs in the W/C 15 February and 61% in the W/C 1 February.
- **The effects of social distancing** form the second largest cause for disruption to collection services, reported by 38% of LAs. This is up from 24% in the previous survey.
- **Staff absence due to sickness** is reported by 31% of LAs responding in W/C 1 March 2021. This is a slight increase compared to the last survey (28%).
- **Major increases in demand for services** is experienced by 4% of responding authorities in the W/C 1 March 2021. This is a significant drop from 15% in the W/C 15 February and from 20% in the W/C 1 February.

# Disposal Services

## Disposal: comparison with previous weeks



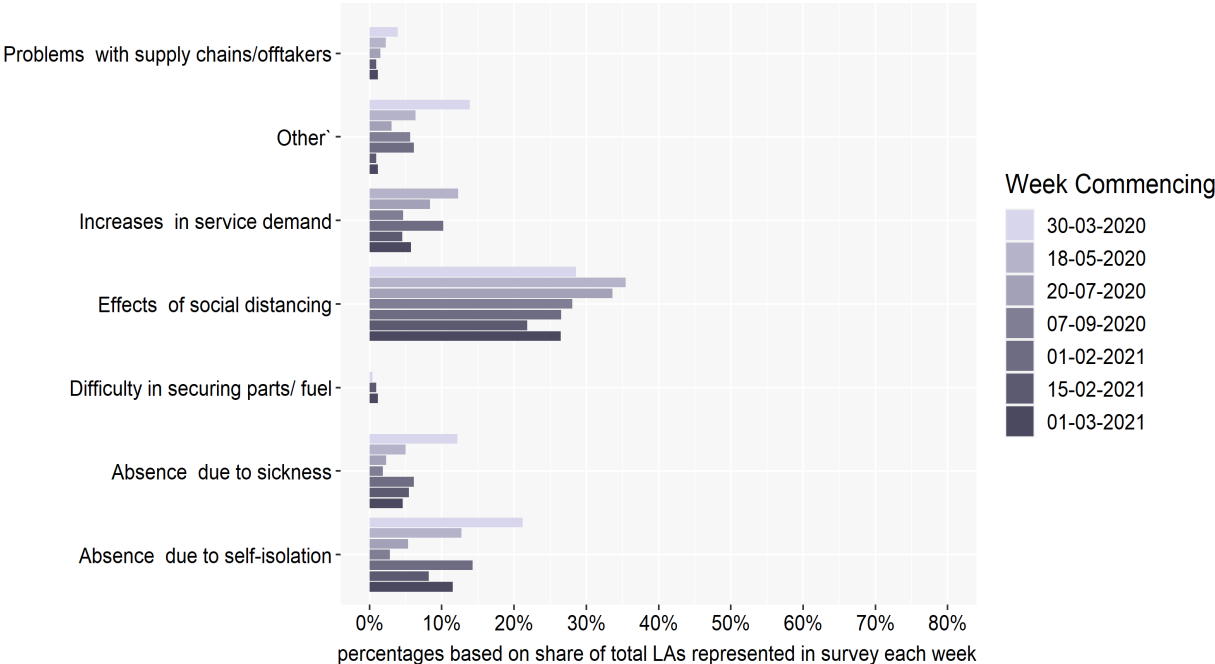
\*Dates given as 'week commencing...'

**Disposal: most recent week**

	Operating normally	Minor disruption	Moderate disruption	Severe disruption	Service not available
Landfill	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
EfW	96%	4%	0%	0%	0%
MRF	93%	4%	4%	0%	0%
HWRC	31%	59%	9%	0%	0%
Transfer Stations	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
MBT	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
OWC	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
IVC/AD	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%

- All **landfilling** and nearly all **Energy from Waste (EfW)** disposal services (96%) utilised by authorities responding to our survey in the W/C 1 March 2021, are reported to be operating as normal. This compares to 96% for landfilling and 98% for EfW reported in the previous survey (W/C 15 February 2021).
- **Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs)**: 93% of responding authorities report MRF services they utilise to be operating as normal in the W/C 1 March 2021. This is an increase from 90% in the previous survey.
- **Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)**: In the W/C 1 March 2021, all authorities report their HWRCs services to be available. Nevertheless, only 31% of responding authorities report HWRCs to be operating normally, with 59% experiencing minor disruption. In the previous survey, 40% reported to be operating normally with 50% experiencing minor disruptions.
- **Transfer stations**: All transfer station services are reported to operate without any disruption by authorities responding to our survey in the W/C 1 March 2021. This is an increase from 98% in the W/C 15 February.
- **Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)**: MBT services are reported to be operating as normal by all responding authorities where this is a disposal service in the W/C 1 March 2021, the same as in the previous survey.
- **Open Windrow Composting (OWC)**: OWC services are reported to be operating as normal by all responding authorities in the W/C 1 March 2021, up from 94% in the last survey.
- All **In-Vessel Composting (IVC) and Anaerobic Digestion (AD)** services are reported to be in normal operation by LAs responding to our survey in the W/C 1 March 2021, up from 93% in the last survey.

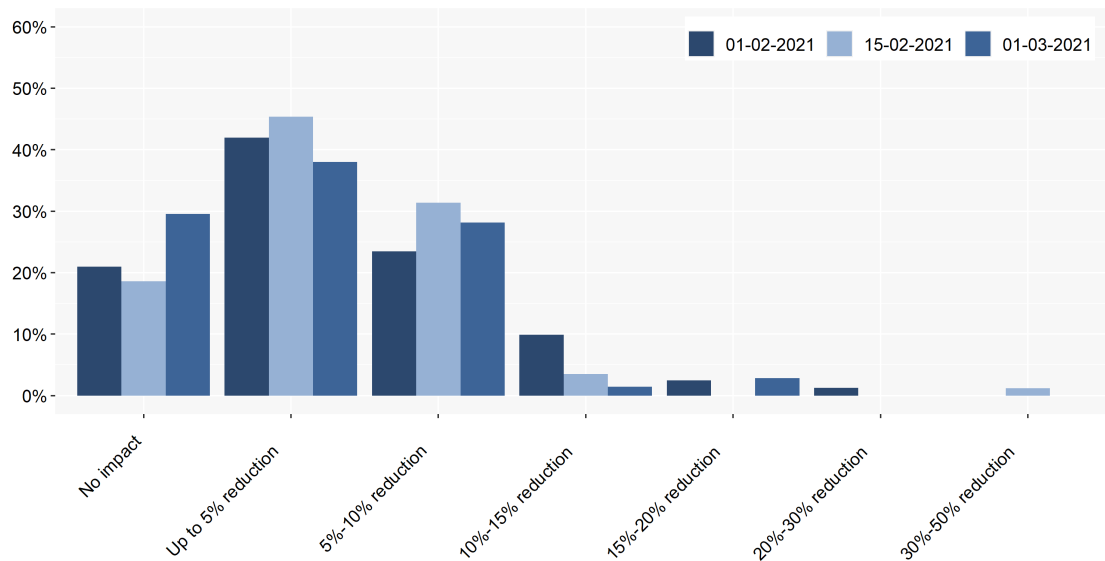
## Disposal: reasons for service changes



- As with collection services, the **effects of social distancing** are the greatest reported cause of disruption to disposal services among responding authorities, reported by 26% in the W/C 1 March 2021. This is an increase from 22% in the previous survey W/C 15 February.
- **Staff absence due to self-isolation** was reported by 11% of responding authorities as a cause for disruption to disposal services they provide in the W/C 1 March 2021, up from 8% in the previous survey.
- **Major increases in service demand** was the next highest reported cause for disruption to disposal services, reported by 6% of responding authorities in the W/C 1 March 2021. This is a very slight increase from 5% in the last survey.
- **Staff absences due to sickness** was highlighted by 4% of responding authorities in the W/C 1 March 2021 as a cause for disruption to disposal services, slightly lower than the percentage reporting in W/C 15 February (5%).



## Staff Absence Levels



- In the W/C 1 March 2021, 29% of responding authorities report experiencing '**no impact**' on operational staffing levels. This figure has increased since the last survey W/C 15 February. This means that 71% are experiencing impacts on staffing levels, compared to 81% in the W/C 15 February and 79% in the W/C 1 February.
- 38% of respondents report an '**up to 5% reduction**' in the W/C 15 February. This is lower than the 45% reported in the previous survey W/C 15 February.
- 28% report a '**5%-10% reduction**', which is down from 31% in the previous survey. Only 3% report a '**15%-20% reduction**' and none report any higher levels of disruption.

# Changes in Waste Arisings (excluding withdrawn services)

## Waste arisings: comparison to previous weeks<sup>i</sup>



## Waste arisings: most recent week

	+100% increase	50-100% increase	20-50% increase	0-20% increase	No impact	0-20% decrease	20-50% decrease	50-100% decrease
Residual	0%	0%	6%	76%	15%	1%	0%	1%
Recycling	0%	0%	10%	85%	3%	0%	1%	1%
Garden	2%	3%	2%	45%	42%	2%	6%	0%
Food	0%	0%	2%	76%	6%	14%	0%	2%
Bulky	0%	2%	5%	30%	61%	0%	2%	0%
Street Sweepings/ Litter	0%	0%	2%	8%	65%	21%	2%	2%
Clinical	0%	0%	2%	6%	92%	0%	0%	0%
Bring Banks	2%	0%	4%	42%	49%	0%	2%	0%
Fly Tipping	2%	6%	22%	25%	44%	0%	2%	0%
Commercial	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	16%	47%	4%

- Residual:** The percentage of authorities reporting residual tonnages to be ‘about the same’ remains at similar levels. In the W/C 1 March, this was reported by 15% of authorities, compared to 14% in the W/C 15 February. Over four in five (82%) authorities represented in our survey report higher than usual residual waste tonnages, at similar levels to the previous survey (83%).
- Recycling:** A large majority (95%) of authorities responding to our survey in the W/C 1 March 2021, reported recycling waste tonnages to be greater than usual, a similar figure to the previous survey (96%). 85% of authorities report increases in tonnages to be in the region of ‘0-20% greater than normal’, while 10% report increases to be in the region of ‘20-50% greater than usual’. This compares to 68% and 26% respectively, reported in the last survey.
- Around two in five authorities (42%) report **garden waste** tonnages to be ‘about the same’ as typical in the W/C 1 March 2021. This is a slight increase from 38% in the previous survey. Greater than usual levels of garden waste tonnages are reported by 52% of responding authorities. To compare, 41% reported garden waste tonnages to have increased in the W/C 15 February 2021.

- Just 6% of authorities report **food waste** tonnages to be ‘about the same’ as typical in W/C 1 March 2021. This is a significant drop from 32% in the previous survey. Greater than usual levels of food waste tonnages are reported by 78% of responding authorities, with the majority being ‘increases of 0 to 20%’. This is up from 59% in the previous survey.
- Three in five (61%) of authorities in the W/C 1 March 2021 report **bulky waste** collected tonnages to be ‘about the same’, while 37% report greater than typical bulky waste collection tonnages. This compares to 68% and 23% respectively as reported in the last survey.
- **Street sweepings/ Litter:** 65% of responding authorities in the W/C 1 March 2021 report no impact on street sweeping/litter tonnages, the same level as in the last survey. Of those remaining, 25% report lesser than usual tonnages, which is up from 21% compared to the last survey.
- The vast majority (92%) of authorities report collected **clinical waste** arisings to be at a similar level to usual. This percentage is similar to the level reported in the previous survey.
- Almost half of LAs in the W/C 1 March 2021 (49%) report waste arisings to be about the same from **bring banks**. This is a significant increase compared to the previous survey (37%). In total, 48% report greater than typical levels of collected waste. This is a decrease compared to the greater than normal levels reported in the last survey (59%).
- **Fly-tip clearance:** Over half of responding authorities (55%) in the W/C 1 March 2021, report greater than usual tonnages of collected fly-tipped waste. This is an increase from 50% in the previous survey. 44% experienced levels to be ‘about the same’, which is slightly higher than the 42% last reported.
- **Commercial:** 67% of responding authorities highlight a lesser-than-usual level of collected commercial waste tonnages in the W/C 1 March 2021, down from 77% in the W/C 15 February. A lower percentage of authorities (33%) report tonnages of commercial waste to be ‘about the same as usual’ as in previous weeks, compared to 23% in the last survey.

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<sup>i</sup> The chart comparing changes to waste arising to previous weeks includes the following categories:

Large increase = +100% increase

Significant increase = 50-100% increase

Moderate increase = 20-50% increase

Minimal increase = 0-20% increase

About the same = No impact

Minimal decrease = 0-20% decrease

Moderate decrease = 20-50% decrease

Significant decrease = 50-100% decrease