

## **Environmental Information Regulations – Response - 27219**

*This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act.*

*For the period 1 June 2023 to the most recently recorded date, please provide the following, preferably with a monthly breakdown and in CSV/Excel format:*

*1. The total number of recorded fires at any site or during any stage of waste collection or processing involving lithium-ion batteries.*

See excel document. The source of the fire is not always evident; these are described on the excel document as “unknown source” where a battery may have been involved but it was not possible to tell.

*2. Of those, and if recorded, the number for which the suspected or recorded cause was vapes (of any type).*

Suffolk County Council (SCC) does not hold this information. We only hold information to say when a suspected battery can be identified as the source of the fire, which may or may not be a battery from a vape.

*3. The quantity of vapes (of any type) or vape batteries found improperly disposed of in collected waste.*

See excel document.

*4. The total number of loads rejected, quarantined, or diverted because of improper e-waste disposal and, if held, the proportion of which is specifically attributed to vapes.*

Zero rejections specifically attributed to e-waste.

*5. The total cost of improper e-waste disposal and, if held, the proportion of which is specifically attributed to vapes.*

Disposal of non-recyclables from the mixed recycling bins is charged to Suffolk County Council at £120 per tonne. We do not have a specific breakdown of the tonnage of electricals or vapes in the reject material, however the number of vapes (no.) is shown on the spreadsheet attached.

Improper disposal of e-waste also costs the council money for enhanced fire protection measures which have to be installed at the recycling sites. Over £1m is currently being invested to increase the fire protection at the Materials Recycling Facility due to the risk of fires from batteries incorrectly placed in recycling bins. Insurance costs covered by the council are also increasing due to the risk of fires caused by batteries.

**6. *The quantity of vapes (of any type) collected properly as e-waste.***

Vapes are co-collected with other small WEEE (electrical waste) at Suffolk Recycling Centres. SCC does not have the tonnage of vapes alone. The tonnage of all small WEEE (including vapes) collected at Recycling Centres is shown in the excel document.

**Please note, due to the size and number of attachments included, this is a partial response. To see the full version, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI team at : [FOI@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@suffolk.gov.uk)**