

E-mail:

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

Your reference:

Our reference: FOI 2017-0391

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - DISCLOSURE**

The council has completed its search relating to your request for information regarding the Council's relationship with charity shops, which was received on 19th May 2017.

The council does hold some information within the definition of your request.

### **Request**

**Question 1.** The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 advise that waste produced by a charity shop selling donated goods which have originated from domestic property (e.g. from private donors) should be counted as household waste, not commercial. With this in mind:

a) Do you accept this kind of waste in the event that a local charity shop were to bring it to one of your council's sites?

Answer a) Charity waste is not accepted at our 14 civic amenity sites but we do currently accept a few charities at transfer stations.

b) do you levy a charge to dispose of such items of domestic waste in the event that a local charity shop were to bring them to one of your civic amenities sites?

Answer b) There is no charge levied as local charity shop waste is not accepted at civic amenity sites.

**Question 2.** If your answer to (1 b) is yes, please provide details of your charging scheme, including any different rates of charges for different categories of waste (for example WEEE items) and any plans to change your charging policies in the future.

**Answer 2.** N/A

**Question 3.** Do you host any charity shops at your civic amenities sites, and if so how many?

**Answer 3.** No.

**Question 4.** How many charity shops are you aware of operating within your local authority area?

**Answer 4.** Cumbria County Council Waste Management team does not have a number for the amount of charity shops in Cumbria but expect it to be many.

**Question 5.** Under the system of business rates relief in England and Wales, local authorities have discretionary powers to grant additional rate relief of up to 20 per cent to charity shops within their area. To how many of the above charity shops do you:

- grant the full 20 per cent rate relief discount,
- grant some discretionary rate relief to, but not the full 20 per cent,
- not grant any additional discretionary rate relief?

**Answer 5.** Cumbria County Council Waste Management team are unable to answer these questions as business rates are decided at District council level.

**Question 6.** Under what criteria would you grant additional discretionary rate relief to charity shops in your area, and do you have any plans to reform these policies in the future?

**Answer 6.** Cumbria County Council Waste Management team are unable to answer these questions as business rates are decided at District council level.

**Question 7.** How many textile recycling banks does you directly manage within your local authority area and what is the average annual income generated by these banks?

**Answer 7.** Cumbria County Council do not manage any textile recycling banks, these are managed either by Shanks Cumbria under the PPP Contract or by the District councils.

**Question 8.** How much would your local authority charge a charity for a licence to operate a textile recycling bank in your area?

**Answer 8.** N/A

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If you are dissatisfied with the way the council has responded to your request you can request an Internal Review. If you would like to request a Review please contact the Information Governance Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Further information can be found on the council's website: <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/council-democracy/accesstoinformation/internalreviewscomplaints.asp>

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Team  
Resources and Transformation  
Cumbria County Council