

I am writing in response to the Public Consultation on the Irish Household Waste Collection Market.

I wish to make the following points.

As a member of my local community, I strongly oppose any proposed change from competition 'in the market' to competition 'for the market'.

1. Under a competition for the market structure, competition and choice will be reduced leading to one or two operators becoming dominant. This will lead to monopolistic/Cartel markets, resulting in price increases, reduced competition etc. Businesses will close, jobs will be lost, costs will increase, and there will be no benefit to customers or the community.
2. There is no evidence in your discussion document of any problem that can't be resolved under the current structures.
3. There is currently much competition in the market which keeps prices down for customers and provides gainful employment in my community for a great many people.
4. My local waste collection business employs local people and these jobs would be at risk if competition for the market was introduced.
5. These people and their families depend on the survival of their local waste collection business.
6. The waste collection business gets a lot of bad press and politicians continuously try to use the waste industry as a political football.
7. Right now, the current system is working well.
8. Since private industry put the local authorities out of business 10 years ago, by offering more competitive prices and a better service, prices have not increased in those 10 years and service has increased and improved. Along with my normal waste and recycling collections, I now get my compost and glass collected. I frequently get text messages relating to collection service around bank holidays, poor weather conditions impacting on service or if a truck breaks down or is delayed and my collection day has to be re-scheduled. There has been no additional charge for this service even though the collection service being provided has improved and doubled.
9. There is no evidence that a change in structure wouldn't lead to greater or unforeseen problems.
10. The loss to my community and the local economy as a result of a company closure and resultant job losses would be devastating.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Doolan
Co Cork.