

RE: Irish Household Waste Collection Market Public Consultation

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

I want to make the following points.

As a member of the local community, I would strongly oppose a change in the market from competition in the market to competition for the market.

- Under a competition for the market structure competition and choice will be reduced and prices would increase dramatically due to no competition, businesses will close, jobs will be lost, costs will increase, and there will be no benefit to customers or the community.
- There is no evidence in your discussion document of any problem that couldn't be resolved under the current structures
- There is loads of competition in the market which keeps prices down for customers and provides gainful employment in this community for hundreds of people.
- The local waste collection business employs a lot of local people and these jobs would be in jeopardy if competition for the market was introduced
- These people and their families depend on the survival of the local waste collection business.
- The waste collection business get a lot of bad press and politicians continuously try to use the waste industry as a political football
- Right now, the current system is working well
- Since private industry put the local authorities out of business 10 years ago by offering more competitive prices and a better service, price has never increased in that 10 years and service has increased. Along with my normal waste and recycling collections I now get my compost and glass collected and there has been no additional charge even though the collection service being provided has doubled
- There is no evidence that a change in structure wouldn't lead to greater problems.
- The loss to our community as a result of company closures and job losses would be devastating.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Ní Liatháin
County Cork