

The Irish Household Waste Collection Market - Public Consultation

We are a small company employing 12 people, and located in the village of Newtowncunningham, Co Donegal, operating on the Inishowen Peninsula, which is in the main a very large rural area. Costs of collection are high. However, we have been able to maintain costs to our domestic customers mainly due to our costs being augmented by a commercial collection service.

We attach herewith submission of the IWMA, which we fully support.

We would also like you to take the following points on board.

Since the privatisation of the waste collection service in Donegal the service has been expanded widely into rural areas. When Donegal County Council were providing the service it was restricted to town and village boundaries. In fact collectors were expressly forbidden from collecting outside of the boundaries.

As a result of privatisation our fleet has been modernised through the introduction of specialised vehicles, compactor trucks, weighing equipment, etc. Our offices are also equipped with high spec computer equipment, and highly trained staff. All customers are supplied with wheelie bins.

This has come at a high financial cost to the company, and despite massive investment over the past number of years we have endeavoured to ensure that any increase in cost to the customer have been kept to a minimum. This has come about through streamlining our services and encouraging our customers to manage their waste effectively.

Our commercial service is delivered side by side with the domestic service, thus again allowing us to remain profitable. We have not cut back on any of our services over the last 10 years, despite reduced use of the service in some areas. Garda Stations and Post Offices have closed. We believe that if the waste collection service was being delivered by the Government, or by Government contract, over the period of the recession it would have been cut back, as were all services.

We hope that you will take these points on board when considering your consultation.

Yours sincerely

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