

## Local Authority Waste Survey Results week commencing 1 February 2021

- Results are based on a voluntary sample of Local Authorities (LAs) taken in the week commencing 01-02-2021. The sample size varies for each survey.
- Respondents are asked to compare services with a 'normal' period having regard to usual seasonal variations.
- Responses represent best reasonable estimates at the date and time the survey is completed, and for some Local Authorities, may be reported with a week's lag.
- Percentages throughout this document may not sum to totals due to rounding.
- Slight revisions have been made to results for disposal questions for previous weeks to correct for a data cleaning error.
- Please note that this is a revised version of this report (dated 11 March 2021). A chart on 'Changes in waste arisings: comparison to previous weeks' has been added. In addition, in the table on 'Changes to waste arisings: most recent week', the categories '+100% increase' and '50-100% increase' were originally interchanged. This error has now been corrected.

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# Collection Services

## Collection: comparison with previous weeks



\*Dates given as 'week commencing...'

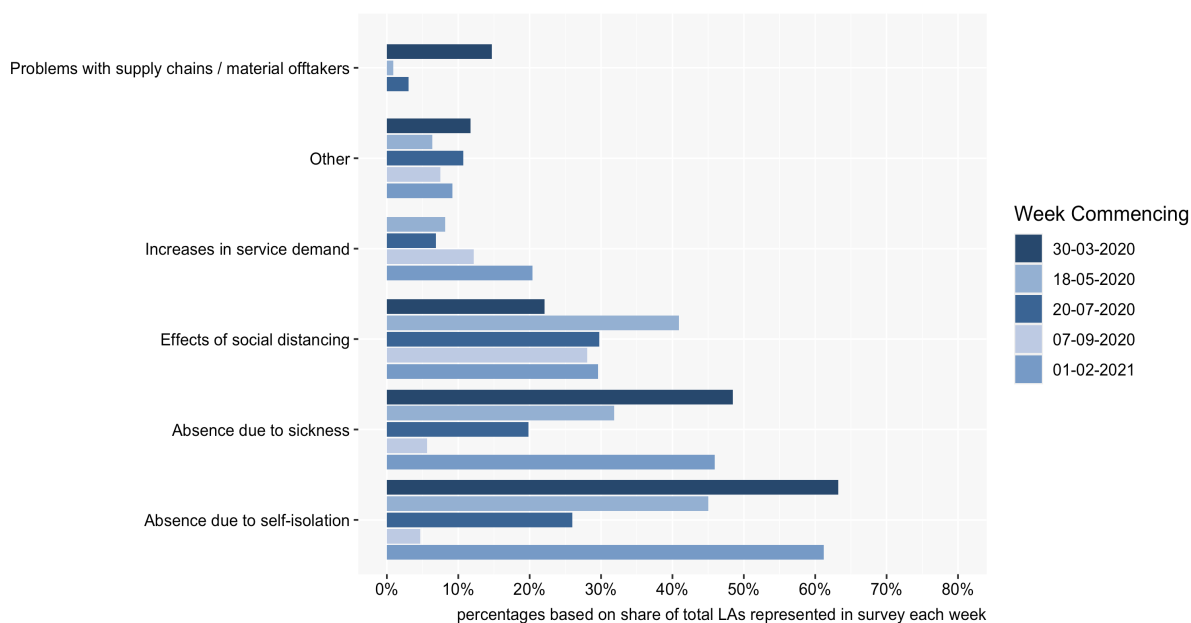
## Collection (Most Recent Week)

	Operating normally	Minor disruption	Moderate disruption	Severe disruption	Service not available
Residual	80%	13%	7%	0%	0%
Recycling	75%	15%	10%	0%	0%
Food	60%	30%	4%	2%	4%
Garden	69%	21%	5%	1%	3%
Clinical	94%	4%	0%	0%	1%
Commercial	98%	2%	0%	0%	0%
Bulky	73%	11%	11%	1%	4%
Street Sweeping	72%	21%	7%	0%	0%
Bring Banks	82%	16%	0%	0%	2%
Fly Tip Clearance	80%	12%	7%	0%	0%

- Residual waste:** 80% of Waste Collection Authorities/Unitary Authorities (WCAs/UAs) providing residual waste collections and responding to our survey in the week commencing 1st February 2021, report these to be operating as normal. This is down from 90% reported in the previous survey in the week commencing 7 September 2020.
- Recycling:** Three quarters (75%) of recycling collections provided are reported to be operating as normal. This percentage is slightly lower than in the previous survey (77%). Minor disruption is reported by 15% of responding authorities.
- Food waste:** Six in ten (60%) authorities responding to our survey in the W/C 1st February 2021 and who provide food waste collections, report these to be operating as normal. This is a significant drop from 91% the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Almost a third (30%) of authorities report minor disruption, up from 2% in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Just 4% of responding authorities report their food collection services to be currently unavailable, down from 7% in first survey held the W/C 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020, but up from 2% in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- Garden waste:** 69% of garden waste collection services are reported to be operating as normal in the W/C 1st February 2021, down compared to the 89% reporting in the last survey. Of the remainder, two in ten (21%) of authorities report minor level of disruption to services in place. A small percentage (3%) report their garden waste collection services to be unavailable, up from 0% in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, but down from 38% when reporting began in the W/C 30<sup>th</sup> March.

- **Clinical waste:** Consistently reported to be the least disrupted collection service, almost all (94%) clinical waste collections are reported to be operating as normal in the W/C 1st February 2021. This is down slightly from 97% in the last survey in the W/C 7th September 2020. 1% of responding LAs report this service to be unavailable, the same as the previous survey.
- **Commercial waste:** Almost all authorities report commercial waste collections are operating as normal (98%) in W/C 1st February 2021. This is a large increase from 57% in the last survey in the W/C 7th September 2020.
- **Bulky collections:** Seven in ten authorities (73%) report that bulky waste collections are operating as normal in the W/C 1st February 2021. This is down from 79% in the W/C 7th September 2020. The majority of the remainder report minor to moderate levels of disruption.
- **Street sweepings:** In total 72% of responding authorities in the W/C 1st February 2021 report street-sweeping and litter collection services are operating as normal. This is down significantly from 98% in the W/C 7th September 2020, but still up from the first survey in March 2020, when only 20% reported this.
- **Bring banks:** Up in relation to the last survey a month ago, the majority (82%) of responding authorities report bring banks services they provide to be operating as normal in the W/C 1st February 2021. This is down slightly from 85% in the W/C 7th September 2020. In total 2% report the service is unavailable, which is at the same level as in the previous survey.
- The majority (80%) of **fly-tipping clearance** collections are reported to be operating as normal in the W/C 1st February 2021, down from 92% in the W/C 7th September 2020. 19% are reported to be in operation, but with minor to moderate disruption.

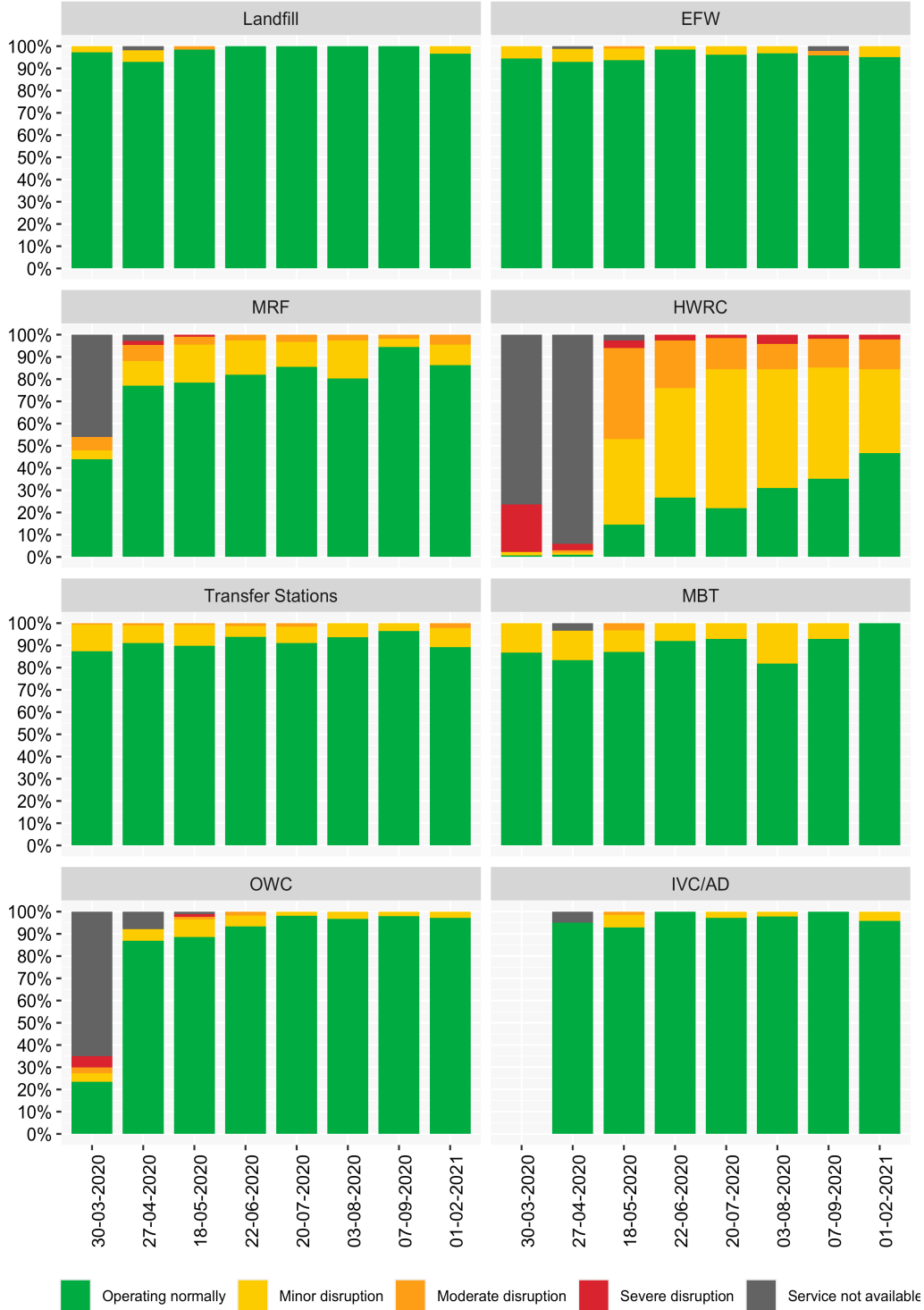
## Collection: reasons for service changes



- In the W/C 1st February 2021, the greatest reported cause for disruption to collection services by responding authorities where disruption is reported to be arising, are the **effects of self-isolation**. This is identified by 61% of responding authorities providing waste collection services. This is a significant increase from 5% in the previous survey W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- **Staff absence due to sickness** is reported by 46% of authorities' responding in W/C 1st February 2021, a significant increase from 6% in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- In the W/C 1st February 2021, the **effects of social distancing** was identified by 30% of responding authorities providing waste collection services.
- **Major increases in demand for services** was reported by 20% of responding authorities, up from 12% in the previous survey.
- **Other reasons** are given by 9% of authorities and include disruptions due to flooding and adverse weather, absences in third party contractors providing services, staff absences due to shielding and increased tonnages of residual, food and recycling.

# Disposal Services

## Disposal services: comparison with previous weeks



\*Dates given as 'week commencing...'

## Disposal (Most Recent Week)

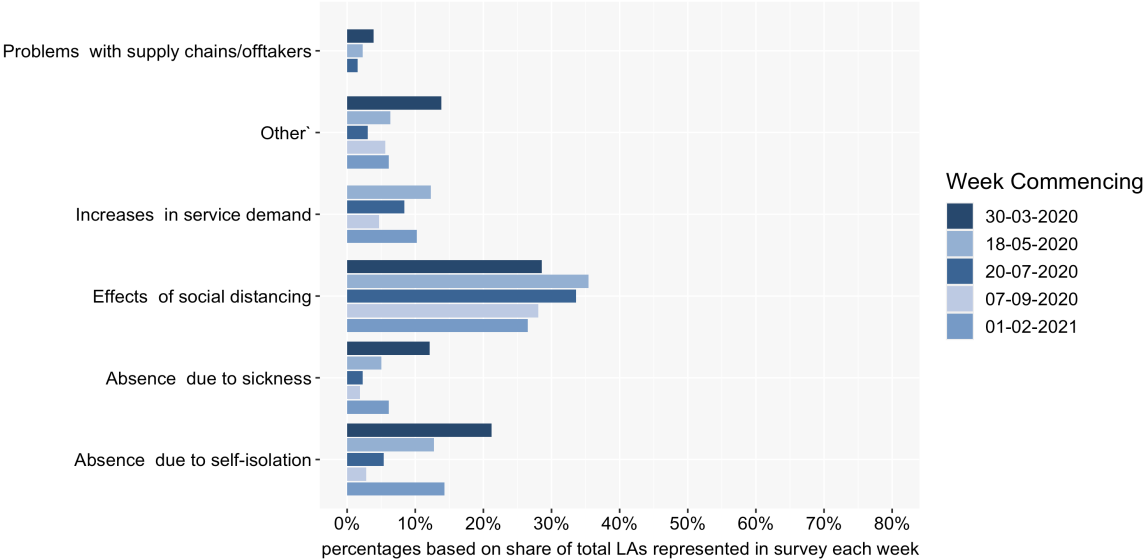
	Operating normally	Minor disruption	Moderate disruption	Severe disruption	Service not available
Landfill	97%	3%	0%	0%	0%
EfW	95%	5%	0%	0%	0%
MRF	86%	9%	5%	0%	0%
HWRC	47%	38%	13%	2%	0%
Transfer Stations	89%	9%	2%	0%	0%
MBT	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
OWC	97%	3%	0%	0%	0%
IVC/AD	96%	4%	0%	0%	0%

- Nearly all landfilling (97%) and nearly all Energy from Waste (EfW) disposal services (95%) utilised by authorities responding to our survey in the W/C 1st February 2021, are reported to be operating as normal. There has been a relatively consistent picture across both waste treatment methods since the W/C 30th March 2020, though EfW has consistently been reported to have a slightly greater level of disruption across the period for reporting.
- Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs): 86% of responding authorities report MRF services they utilise to be operating as normal in the W/C 1st February 2021.
- Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs): In the W/C 1st February 2021, no authority report their HWRCs services to be unavailable, compared to more than three in four authorities when reporting began in the W/C 30th March 2020. Just under half (47%) report them to be operating as normal.
- Transfer stations: Most (89%) transfer station services are reported to be continuing to operate without any disruption by authorities responding to our survey in the W/C 1st February 2021.
- Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT): MBT services are reported to be operating as normal by all of the responding authorities where this is a disposal service (just over half of respondents) in the W/C 1st February 2021.
- Open Windrow Composting (OWC): OWC services are reported to be operating as normal by almost all (97%) responding authorities in the W/C 1st February 2021, which is at comparable levels to the previous survey. No authority report this service to be unavailable.

- Almost all (96%) In-Vessel Composting (IVC) and Anaerobic Digestion (AD) services are reported to be in normal operations by LAs responding to our survey in the W/C 1st February 2021.

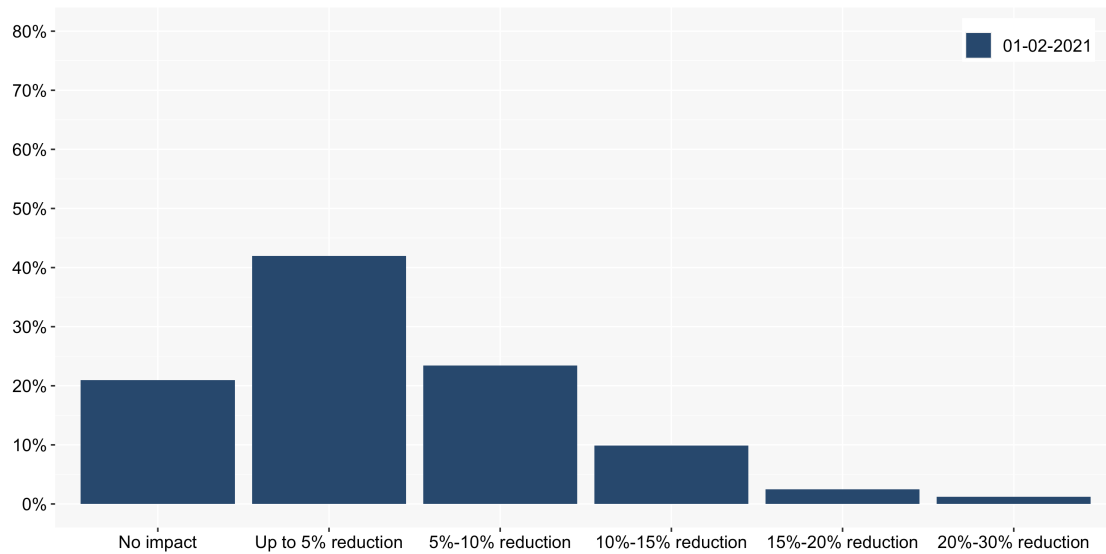


## Disposal: reasons for service changes



- The **effects of social distancing** are the greatest reported cause of disruption to disposal services among responding authorities, reported by 27% in the W/C 1 February 2021.
- **Staff absence due to self-isolation** is the next highest reported causes for disruption to disposal services in the W/C 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021, reported by 14% of responding authorities.
- **Major increases in service demand** have been reported by 10% of responding authorities in the W/C 1 February 2021 as a cause for disruption.
- **Staff absences due to sickness** was highlighted by 6% of responding authorities in the W/C 1 February 2021 as a cause for disruption to provided disposal services.
- **Other reasons** provided for disruption were linked to staff shielding, however causes for disruption such as staff absence were reported to be being managed effectively with limited material effect on services at present.

## Staff Absence Levels



- In the week commencing 1st February 2021, 21% of responding authorities report experiencing 'no impact' on operational staffing levels. This figure has fallen greatly since the last survey (week commencing 7 September), when 63% experienced 'no impact'. The level of disruption, however, is still less than experienced in March 2020, when only 5% reported no impact.
- 42% of authorities reported in staffing levels. In total, 78% of authorities experienced up to 20% reduction. This is higher than in the previous survey, when the figure was 37%.
- No instances of levels of disruption greater than 30% reduction were reported in this survey.

# Changes in Waste Arisings (Excluding Withdrawn Services)

## Waste arisings: comparison to previous weeks<sup>1</sup>



## Waste arisings (most recent week)

	+100% increase	50-100% increase	20-50% increase	0-20% increase	No impact	0-20% decrease	20-50% decrease	50-100% decrease
Residual	0%	1%	33%	57%	4%	4%	0%	1%
Recycling	0%	3%	33%	57%	4%	3%	0%	1%
Garden	0%	4%	7%	43%	38%	4%	3%	0%
Food	0%	2%	12%	45%	14%	17%	5%	5%
Bulky	0%	7%	26%	16%	48%	1%	1%	0%
Street Sweepings/ Litter	0%	0%	7%	13%	64%	10%	4%	1%
Clinical	0%	5%	3%	5%	83%	3%	0%	0%
Bring Banks	2%	2%	20%	29%	37%	5%	3%	2%
Fly Tipping	0%	26%	16%	21%	33%	4%	0%	0%
Commercial	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	31%	53%	4%

- **Residual:** Nine in ten (91%) authorities represented in our survey in the W/C 1 February-2021, report higher than usual residual waste tonnages, up from the previous survey in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (77%). The percentage of authorities reporting residual tonnages to be 'about the same' is lower than reported in previous surveys (e.g. 20% in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020).
- **Recycling:** Over nine in ten (93%) of authorities responding to our survey in the W/C 01 February 2021, report recycling waste tonnages to be greater than usual, up from previous surveys (e.g. 82% in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020). The majority of authorities (57%) of authorities report increases in tonnages to be in the region of '0-20% greater than normal'.
- Just over half of authorities (54%) report **garden waste** tonnages to have increased, up from 48% in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. In total, 38% of authorities report no impact.
- A lower percentage (14%) of authorities report **food waste** tonnages to be 'about the same' as typical, compared to the previous survey (28%) in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Greater than usual levels of food waste tonnages are reported by 59% of responding authorities, with the majority being 'increases of 0 to 20%'.
- Under half (48%) of authorities in the W/C 1 February 2021 report **bulky waste** collected tonnages to be 'about the same', while 49% report greater than typical bulky waste collection tonnages, up from 30% in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

- **Street sweepings/Litter:** Over six in ten responding authorities in the W/C 1 February 2021 (64%) report no impact on street sweeping/litter tonnages, down from 69% in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Of those remaining, a larger percentage (20%) report higher than usual levels of street sweeping/litter tonnages compared to lesser than usual tonnages (15%).
- The vast majority (83%) of authorities report collected **clinical waste** arisings to be at a similar level to usual. This percentage is lower than levels reported in previous surveys (e.g. 95% in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020).
- Over half of authorities in the W/C 1 February 2021 (53%) report greater than typical levels of collected waste from **bring banks**. 37% report waste arisings to be about the same from these sites, which is down from 47% in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- **Fly-tip clearance:** Six in ten responding authorities (63%) in the W/C 1 February 2021, report greater than usual tonnages of collected fly-tipped waste. 26% report an increase of over 100%. This is a significant increase compared to the previous survey in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, when 52% reported an increase and only 1% reported an increase greater than 100%.
- **Commercial:** 88% of responding authorities highlight a lesser-than-usual level of collected commercial waste tonnages in the W/C 1 February 2021, which is higher than the 73% in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. A lower percentage of authorities (11%) report tonnages of commercial waste to be 'about the same as usual' than in previous weeks (e.g. 21% in the W/C 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020).

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<sup>i</sup> The chart comparing changes to waste arising to previous weeks includes the following categories:

Large increase = +100% increase

Significant increase = 50-100% increase

Moderate increase = 20-50% increase

Minimal increase = 0-20% increase

About the same = No impact

Minimal decrease = 0-20% decrease

Moderate decrease = 20-50% decrease

Significant decrease = 50-100% decrease