

23 October 2024

Dear

## **ATISN 21981 – Clothing and Textiles Recycling**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 7 October. You asked several questions about clothing and textiles recycling. I have listed your questions below and provided an answer to each question in turn.

### **Our response**

- ***You asked whether the figures (tonnes) for clothing and textiles recycling collection quoted on the My Recycling Wales website are counted as part of Wales's national annual recycling figures.***

The figures for clothing and textiles recycling quoted on the My Recycling Wales website are counted as part of Wales national annual recycling figures.

- ***You noted that some of the textiles are sent to 'unspecified' locations and asked the names of the companies involved, the amounts (in tonnes) and what happens to the textiles once they reach these places. And you asked are they repaired, reused, recycled, landfilled, incinerated, exported?***

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by Welsh Government.

- ***You noted that 355tonnes is sent to Potters Waste Management and asked what happens to the textiles once they reach Potters Waste Management. You also asked if the textiles sent there for recycling actually end up in landfill sites or being incinerated?***

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by Welsh Government.

- ***You noted that 1470 tonnes of textiles are sent to JMP Wilcox and Company Ltd in England and asked if clothing and textiles collected in Wales end up as unused, dumped, littered waste in places like the Atacama Desert and on the beaches of Ghana after being sent to this company?***

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by Welsh Government.

- ***You mentioned that 384 tonnes of textiles are sent to SWD Premier Clothing Exports Ltd, and if clothing and textiles collected in Wales end***

**up as unused, dumped, littered waste in places like the Atacama Desert and on the beaches of Ghana after being sent to this company?**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require is not held by Welsh Government.

- ***You asked if Welsh Government have any plans to develop a Welsh national clothing and textiles recycling facility so we can be sure that any clothing and textiles collected in Wales are being recycled in Wales and so we can control exactly what happens to these materials and where exactly they end up?***

Welsh Government does not have any current plans to develop a Welsh national clothing and textiles recycling facility. The varying fibres used in textile production (and the variability in their recyclability) can make providing end of life solutions to unwanted textiles complicated. This is one of several reasons why we outlined within *Beyond Recycling*, our circular economy strategy, the need for further policy work.

The most up-to-date Municipal waste compositional analysis and the findings indicate that Textiles account for 2.9% of all Municipal Waste in Wales (the report also contains details on the proportion of textiles in residual/kerbside recycling/household recycling centres residual and collected for recycling waste).

Given the amount of textiles material in the waste stream it is however an issue that will need to be tackled. Alongside household waste collections there are already other existing reuse and recycling options that can be utilised e.g. donations to Charity Shops or sales via Vinted and Ebay or reuse via school uniform exchanges etc.

Welsh Government are committed signatories of Textiles 2030 [Textiles 2030 [WRAP], the UK voluntary agreement for textiles, which is focused on working towards carbon, water and circular textiles targets across the industry. We are also working with the other governments in the UK to understand any evidence gaps.

### **Next steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at: Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,

Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely