

SDR 203/2013

21 November 2013

## Local authority recorded fly-tipping in Wales, 2012-13

This release gives an annual summary of fly-tipping incidents in Wales, as recorded by local authorities, over the last seven years. The release includes data collected for fly-tipping incidents, including incidents by size and waste type as well as the number of enforcement actions and prosecution outcomes. Information for 2012-13 is provisional, and may be subject to change up until 31 December 2013.

Data on fly-tipping in Wales is collected in order to help the Welsh Government, local authorities and the Environment Agency tackle the problem. Flycapture – a web-based, fly-tipping database – was introduced in 2004 as one measure to help meet the requirements of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003. It allows local authorities to record the number of fly-tipping incidents on public land within their area each month. The information in this release only covers incidents of fly-tipping dealt with by local authorities. Incidents dealt with by private landowners are not included. It is possible the actual number of incidents for Wales is higher than indicated.

The full dataset, including local authority breakdowns is available on the [StatsWales](http://StatsWales) website.

### Key Results

- The number of fly-tipping incidents recorded by local authorities has consistently fallen since the peak in 2007-08. In 2012-13 there were over 34,800 fly-tipping incidents in Wales, the lowest number of incidents recorded by local authorities since 2006-07. The continued fall in incidents may be due to increased community engagement, education and enforcement action over recent years (Table 1).
- Whilst the number of fly-tipping incidents on highway land (i.e. public highways or roads) continued to fall, the highest proportion of incidents (43 per cent) occurred on this type of land during 2012-13 (Table 2).
- Although the number of fly-tipping incidents has continued to fall, the proportion of incidents involving household waste (including both black bags and other household waste) has increased over the last two years (accounting for 71 per cent in 2012-13) (Table 3).
- Estimated clearance costs also continued to fall, falling by just under £1.2 million, from a peak of £3.07 million in 2007-08 to £1.89 million in 2012-13 (Chart 5).
- During 2012-13 the number of enforcement actions taken in Wales fell for the first time since 2007-08. Of those where local authorities carried out prosecutions, the vast majority, as with preceding years, resulted in a fine (Tables 5 & 6).

**Statistician:** Rhiannon Caunt

**Tel:** 029 2082 6768

**Email:** [stats.environment@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats.environment@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

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Cyhoeddwyd gan Y Gwasanaethau Gwybodaeth a Dadansoddi

Llywodraeth Cymru, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd, CF10 3NQ

Ffôn – Swyddfa'r Wasg **029 2089 8099**, Ymholiadau Cyhoeddus **029 2082 3332**

**[www.cymru.gov.uk/ystadegau](http://www.cymru.gov.uk/ystadegau)**

Issued by Knowledge and Analytical Services

Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

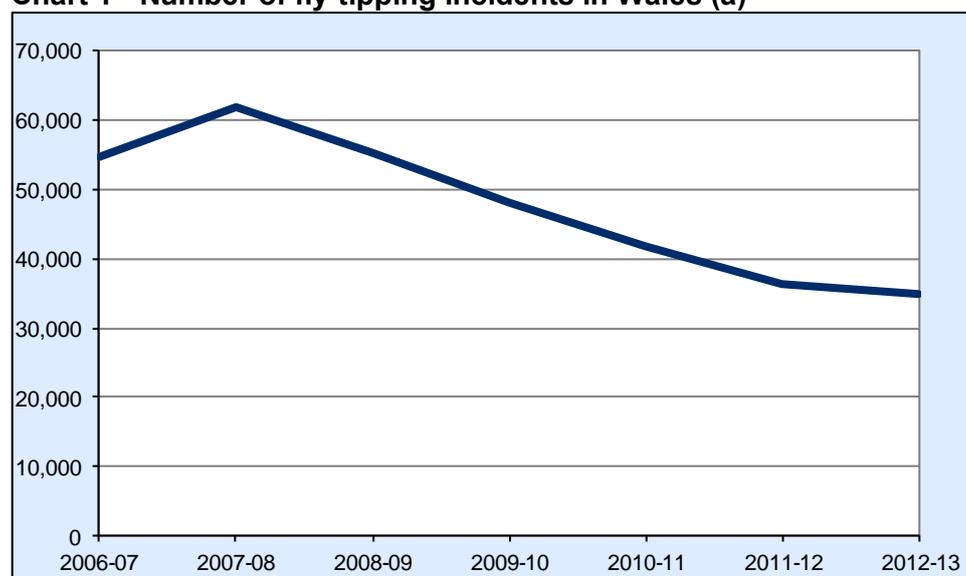
Telephone – Press Office **029 2089 8099**, Public Enquiries **029 2082 5050**

**[www.wales.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics)**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Chart 1 - Number of fly-tipping incidents in Wales (a)**



Source: Flycapture

(a) Incidents recorded by local authorities.

- The number of fly-tipping incidents recorded by local authorities in Wales has continued to fall since 2007-08, with over 34,800 occurring in 2012-13. This was a fall of 4 per cent over the last year.
- Overall the total number of incidents has fallen by around 44 per cent since the peak in 2007-08, with urban authorities reporting the biggest fall during this period (56 per cent). However over the last year 'Other' authorities (i.e. those not classified as rural, urban or valleys authorities) had the biggest fall in incidents (21 per cent), and accounted for more than three quarters of the total reduction of fly-tipping incidents seen since 2011-12.
- Both 'Rural' and 'Valleys' authorities had a 4 per cent fall in incidents over the last year, whereas in 'Urban' authorities there has been around a 2 per cent increase.
- The continued decrease in fly-tipping incidents in Wales may be due to initiatives such as increased community engagement, education and enforcement action which have taken place over recent years. In addition to this Fly-tipping Action Wales is currently involved in programmes tackling fly-tipping in the Valleys Regional Park areas, which involves nine local authorities, allowing enforcement officers to record all cases of fly-tipping by location, size and waste type.

**Table 1 - Number of fly-tipping incidents by local authority type (a)(b)**

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Other	6,999	7,041	5,784	7,159	5,808	5,703	4,509
Valleys	9,020	8,729	8,888	7,851	8,576	7,103	6,785
Rural	9,496	10,728	13,688	13,615	10,331	8,300	7,983
Urban	29,326	35,497	26,989	19,554	17,035	15,305	15,599
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,841</b>	<b>61,995</b>	<b>55,349</b>	<b>48,179</b>	<b>41,750</b>	<b>36,411</b>	<b>34,876</b>

Source: Flycapture

(a) Incidents recorded by local authorities.

(a) See 'Key Quality Information' for definition of local authority groupings

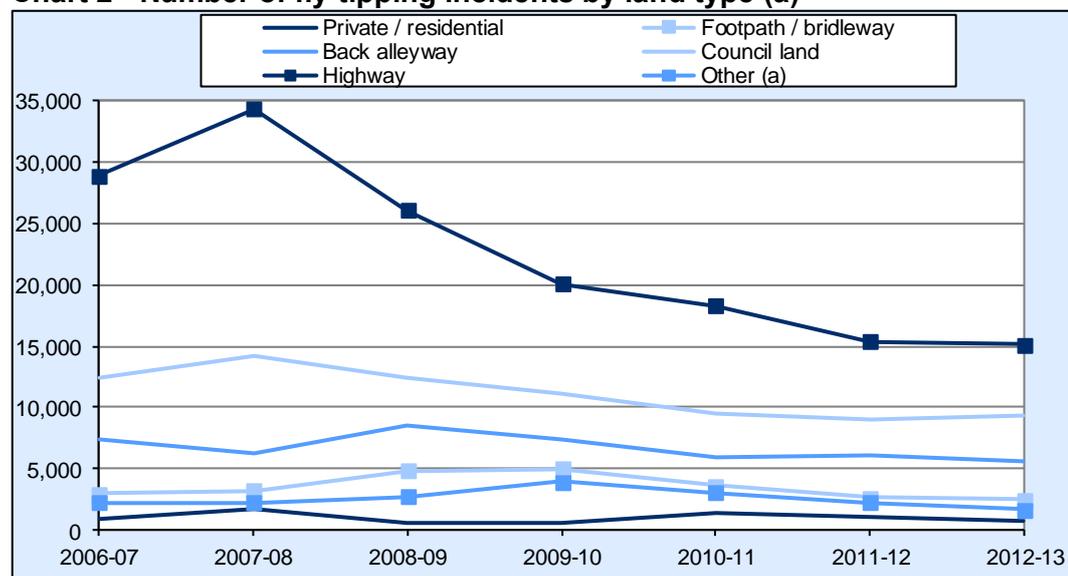
- Of the incidents recorded by local authorities in 2012-13, the largest proportion (45 per cent) continued to occur in the urban local authorities (Cardiff, Swansea and Newport). The proportion has increased slightly, due to incidents within urban authorities increasing by 2 per cent over the last year whilst incidents within the other types of authorities decreased.
- With the exception of urban authorities, 2012-13 saw all local authority types recording their lowest number of incidents in the last seven reporting years.

Since 2008-09 there has generally been a decrease in the number of incidents occurring in urban authorities. The fall in incidents within urban authorities may have been affected in part by improvements to recording of incidents, such as black bins left out on the wrong refuse pick up day previously being incorrectly recorded as fly-tipping incidents. High scrap metal prices may also have had an impact. However there has been 2 per cent increase in the number of incidents over the last year.

### Fly-tipping incidents by type of land

- Although the number of fly-tipping incidents in 2012-13 that occurred on highway land, i.e. public highways or roads, has continued to fall over the last 5 reporting years, the highest proportion of incidents (43 per cent) continued to occur on this type of land. The fall in incidents occurring on highways may be affected by black bins left out on the wrong refuse pick up day previously being incorrectly recorded as fly-tipping incidents.

**Chart 2 - Number of fly-tipping incidents by land type (a)**



Source: Flycapture

(a) Incidents recorded by local authorities.

- Over the last year the number of incidents on different land types fell, with the exception of council land where incidents rose by 5 per cent. As a result in 2012-13 more than a quarter (27 per cent) of incidents occurred on council land.
- Over the last seven years there has been variation in the number of fly-tipping incidents recorded by local authorities on different types of land, however in 2012-13 fly-tipping incidents were at their lowest recorded levels on footpaths/bridleways, back alleyways, highways and other land types.
- The number of incidents on private/residential land fell by 41 per cent over the last year, but there has been a large amount of annual fluctuation on incidents occurring on this type of land in the past. However the fall in recorded incidents may be due to some local authorities not reporting fly-tipping incidents on private land.

**Table 2 – Number of fly-tipping incidents by land type (a)**

	<i>Number</i>						
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Private / residential	953	1,732	588	614	1,348	1,147	681
Footpath / bridleway	2,956	3,245	4,856	5,008	3,651	2,673	2,482
Back alleyway	7,337	6,214	8,609	7,315	5,900	6,076	5,550
Council land	12,422	14,227	12,432	11,170	9,509	8,936	9,393
Highway	28,965	34,337	26,101	20,101	18,319	15,368	15,127
Other (b)	2,208	2,240	2,763	3,971	3,023	2,211	1,643
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,841</b>	<b>61,995</b>	<b>55,349</b>	<b>48,179</b>	<b>41,750</b>	<b>36,411</b>	<b>34,876</b>

Source: Flycapture

(a) Incidents recorded by local authorities.

(b) Other includes railway, agriculture, watercourse/bank, commercial/industrial and other-unidentified.

### Fly-tipping incidents by type of waste

- Although the number of fly-tipping incidents has generally fallen since 2007-08, the percentage of incidents involving household waste (including both black bags and other household waste) has increased over the last two years, accounting for 71 per cent of all incidents in 2012-13.

**Table 3 – Number of fly-tipping incidents by waste type (a)**

	<i>Number</i>						
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Clinical	122	97	110	96	68	90	122
Asbestos	236	168	188	172	180	197	167
Chemical drums, oil, fuel	205	268	239	210	170	151	103
Animal carcass	281	333	302	213	100	94	110
Vehicle parts	1,046	815	588	470	513	341	236
Black bags - commercial	2,332	941	985	1,157	1,427	963	882
Other electrical	1,057	1,496	1,561	1,740	1,336	830	676
Tyres	1,360	1,641	1,622	1,366	1,141	1,157	815
White goods	2,564	2,868	2,216	1,809	1,622	1,161	726
Other (unidentified)	1,921	2,229	2,446	1,896	1,764	1,209	1,066
Green	2,462	2,901	2,939	2,374	1,943	1,739	1,610
Other commercial waste	2,105	2,238	2,998	2,702	1,647	997	1,099
Building materials (b)	3,394	3,885	3,120	2,652	2,861	2,978	2,549
Black bags - household	18,621	20,740	16,267	13,052	9,312	9,466	8,276
Other household	17,128	21,375	19,768	18,270	17,666	15,038	16,439
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,834</b>	<b>61,995</b>	<b>55,349</b>	<b>48,179</b>	<b>41,750</b>	<b>36,411</b>	<b>34,876</b>

Source: Flycapture

(a) Incidents recorded by local authorities.

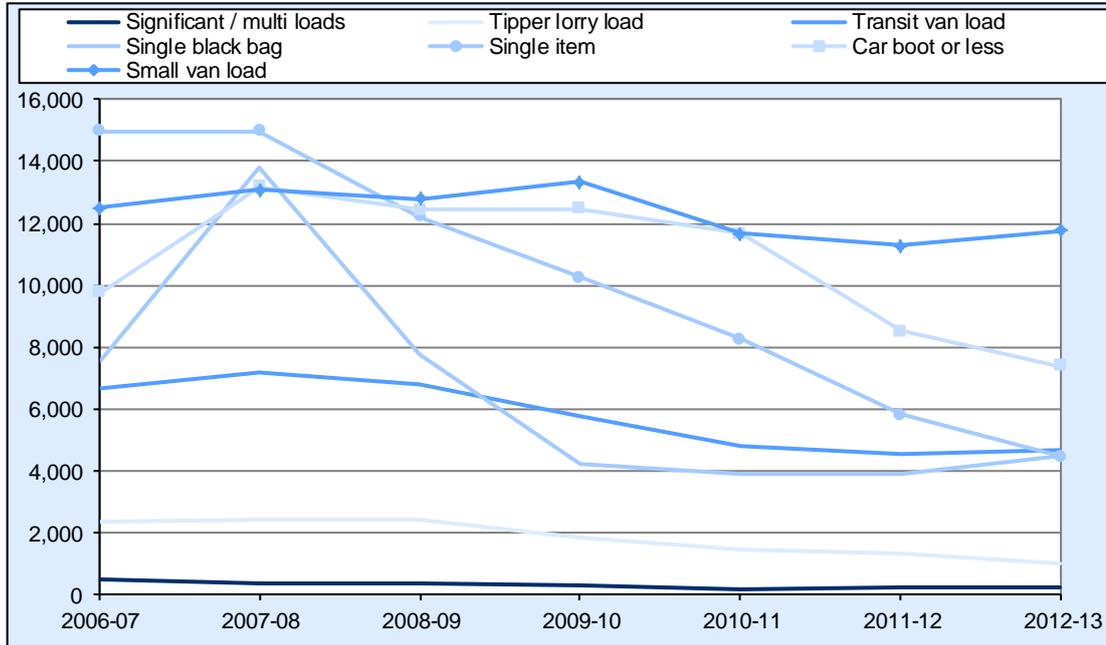
(b) Building materials includes construction, demolition and excavation waste.

- Over the last year the majority of waste types have seen a fall in the number of fly-tipping incidents. Amongst these there has been noticeable falls in incidents relating to vehicles parts and tyres, as well as white goods and other electrical items. This may be due to improved local authorities' facilities for disposing of white goods and retailers offering 'take back' schemes, as well as high scrap metal costs.

### Size of fly-tipping incidents

Information collected on the size and cost of fly-tipping incidents relates to fly-tipping incidents cleared by the local authority only. It does not include incidents cleared by others; therefore the total number of fly-tipping incidents may differ from those presented previously within this release. See 'Key Quality Information' (point 14) for further information.

**Chart 4 – Number of fly-tipping incidents by size of incident (a)**



Source: Flycapture

(a) Incidents cleared by local authorities.

- Generally fly-tipping incidents of all sizes, as recorded by local authorities, have continued to fall.
- Since 2008-09, the most common size of fly-tipping incidents, on the whole, has continued to be that of a 'small van load', accounting for nearly 35 per cent of incidents in 2012-13.
- Up until 2007-08, the most common size of fly-tipping incidents occurred within the 'single item' category (accounting for 28 per cent of all incidents in 2006-07 and 23 per cent in 2007-08). Since then the number of incidents recorded in this category has fallen substantially, and as a result single item incidents accounted for 13 per cent of all incidents in 2012-13.
- The most noticeable increase over the last year was in single black bag incidents. Following a slight increase in 2011-12, it was reported that single black bag incidents increased by 13 per cent over the last year, however single black bag incidents were still lower than those recorded prior to 2009-10. The increase in single black bag incidents may be affected by local authorities changing from weekly waste collections to fortnightly. In addition black bags left out on the wrong day may also be incorrectly classed as fly-tipping incidents.

**Table 4 – Number of fly-tipping incidents by size (a)**

	<i>Number</i>						
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Significant / multi loads	446	362	316	276	135	207	193
Tipper lorry load	2,354	2,391	2,402	1,853	1,443	1,335	1,014
Transit van load	6,626	7,186	6,774	5,722	4,800	4,546	4,665
Single black bag	7,564	13,794	7,777	4,220	3,910	3,912	4,434
Single item	14,996	14,967	12,223	10,244	8,241	5,791	4,460
Car boot or less	9,779	13,177	12,426	12,477	11,677	8,505	7,394
Small van load	12,489	13,095	12,794	13,327	11,667	11,283	11,776
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,254</b>	<b>64,972</b>	<b>54,712</b>	<b>48,119</b>	<b>41,873</b>	<b>35,579</b>	<b>33,936</b>

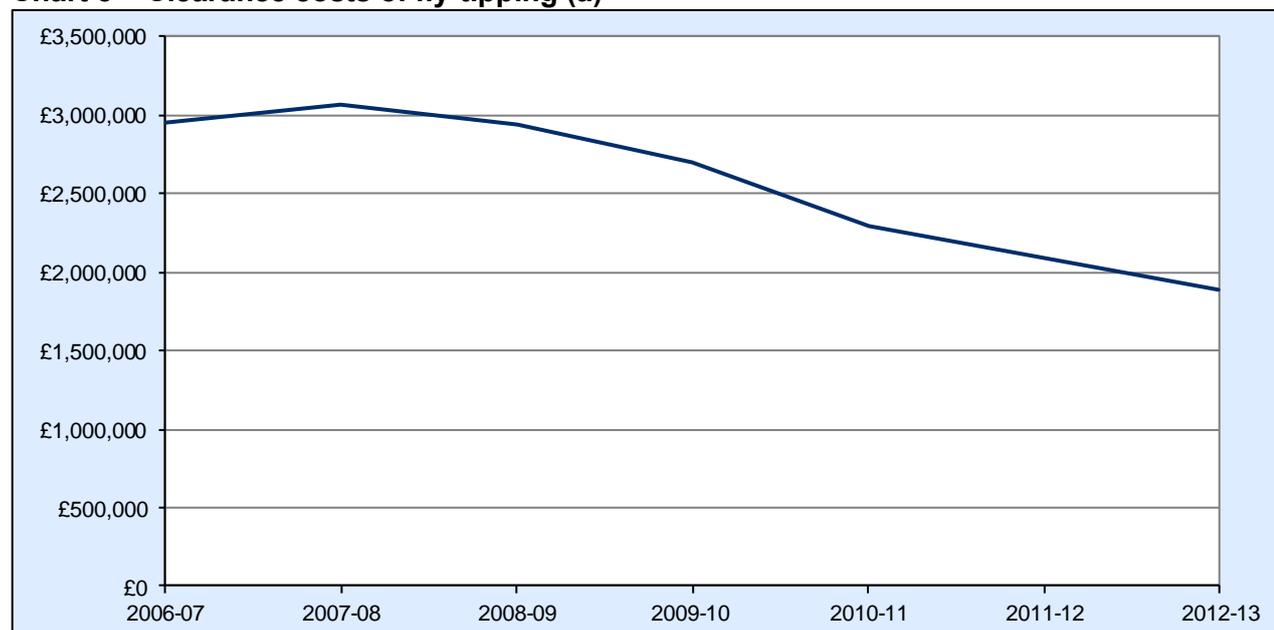
Source: Flycapture

(a) Totals may differ to those in previous tables as figures only based on incidents cleared by local authority, not others.

### Cost of fly-tipping

The cost information within this section only applies to the incidents cleared by the local authority. This cost information is a subset of the data which includes all incidents recorded by the Local Authority. This is the same subset of data used for the number of fly-tipping incidents by size.

- The costs attached to the clearance of fly-tipping incidents follow a similar trend to the number of fly-tipping incidents recorded. As the overall number of fly-tipping incidents recorded by local authorities has decreased so has the estimated cost of clearing up such incidents.

**Chart 5 – Clearance costs of fly-tipping (a)**

Source: Flycapture

(a) Incidents cleared by local authorities.

- Estimated clearance costs have fallen by just under £1.2 million, from a peak of £3.07 million in 2007-08 to £1.89 million in 2012-13.
- It is noticeable that whilst the number of incidents that were cleared by local authorities fell by 5 per cent over the last year, estimated clearance costs fell by 10 per cent. This is due to the fall in fly-tipping incidents that were classified as significant or multiple loads. Whilst the number of these incidents, which generally have higher clearance costs, decreased by 7 per cent, the costs attached to these incidents decreased by 40 per cent. As the clearance costs for significant or multiple loads are provided by local authorities there is a great deal of variation. Due to this variation a small decrease in the number of incidents over the last year has resulted in a much larger decrease in costs.

## Enforcement actions taken against fly-tipping incidents

In response to a fly-tipping incident, an enforcement action is imposed on the individual convicted of the incident. The table below provides information on the different types of enforcement actions carried out.

**Table 5 - Number of enforcement actions taken by type of action**

	<i>Number</i>						
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Injunction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stop and search	311	87	15	49	134	175	109
Formal caution	41	51	41	73	35	35	12
Prosecution	42	59	72	109	82	106	87
Statutory notice	347	148	234	436	2,924	613	979
Fixed penalty notice	603	1,130	779	633	266	492	725
Duty of care inspection	1,127	1,562	1,595	1,262	942	1,219	673
Warning letter	10,510	5,263	5,014	4,065	4,465	7,455	3,042
Investigation	6,740	9,818	12,662	16,101	16,478	21,393	17,311
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,721</b>	<b>18,118</b>	<b>20,412</b>	<b>22,728</b>	<b>25,326</b>	<b>31,488</b>	<b>22,938</b>

Source: Flycapture

- Since 2007-08 the total number of enforcement actions taken in Wales had been increasing with over 30,000 actions taken in 2011-12. However in 2012-13 enforcement actions fell to 22,938, a fall of 27 per cent. The fall in the total number of actions taken was mainly driven by the number of warning letters issued more than halving and investigations dropping by 19 per cent. The fall in enforcement actions may be due to investigations of fly-tipping incidents not being a statutory duty
- Whilst the number of investigations carried out fell in 2012-13, investigations are still the most common form of enforcement action taken, accounting for three quarters of all actions.
- Over the last year there has been a decrease in all types of enforcement actions taken, with the exception of statutory notices served and fixed penalty notices, both of which saw substantial increases (60 per cent and 47 per cent respectively).

**Table 6 - Prosecution outcomes (a)**

	<i>Number</i>						
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Other (successful)	0	1	0	2	2	3	1
Community service	0	0	2	6	2	2	2
Custodial sentence	0	0	2	0	0	14	1
Cases lost	1	1	3	0	1	1	1
Absolute / condition discharge	1	6	7	7	1	10	9
Fine	40	51	58	94	76	76	73
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>87</b>

Source: Flycapture

(a) Prosecutions do not necessarily take place in the year that the relevant fly-tipping incident occurs.

It should be noted that the number of prosecutions carried out by local authorities does not necessarily equal the number of offenders, as offenders can be prosecuted for multiple incidents.

- Over the last few years the number of prosecutions that local authorities carried out against offenders has fluctuated on an annual basis. During 2012-13 the number of prosecutions fell from the previous year, with 87 prosecutions against offenders, a similar level to that seen during 2010-11.

- As in previous years, most prosecutions resulted in a fine being issued, with 84 per cent of prosecutions resulting in a fine in 2012-13.
- Prior to 2011-12, there were only two cases where the prosecution resulted in a custodial sentence, both in 2008-09. However there were 14 cases in 2011-12 and one further case in 2012-13 which resulted in a custodial sentence.
- Since 2006-07, only eight cases in total have failed to reach a successful outcome and were lost in court.
- In 2012-13 over half of all prosecutions in Wales were carried out by Caerphilly and Cardiff, 93 per cent of these prosecutions were fines.

## Key Quality Information

### Policy and Operational Context

1. The Welsh Government is committed to improving local environmental quality, tackling fly-tipping and reducing the amount spent in clean up costs. Work is currently being undertaken to replace the Welsh Government's five-year Fly-tipping Strategy, published in December 2006, with a new strategy. The consultation for this new strategy will go out at the beginning of 2014. For further information please refer to the Welsh Government website:  
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/cleanneighbour/flytipping/?lang=en>
2. [Fly-tipping Action Wales](#), a partnership initiative sponsored by the Welsh Government and coordinated by Environment Agency Wales, is involved in programmes tackling fly-tipping in the Valleys Regional Park as part of a project funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Welsh Government. This forms part of a larger project to regenerate the Valleys to help improve the area's environment and maximise the potential for outdoor recreation and heritage in the area.
3. Global Positioning Systems (GPS) have been purchased to be used across nine local authorities, allowing enforcement officers to record all cases of fly-tipping by location, size and waste type across the Valleys Regional Park area.
4. The nine local authorities in the Valleys Regional Park area include Carmarthenshire County Council, Swansea City & County Council, Bridgend County Borough Council, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and Torfaen County Borough Council.

### Quality

5. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

6. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political reference.
7. These statistics adhere to the Welsh Government's [Statistical Quality Management Strategy](#).

### Data Source

8. This report is based on the returns made to the [Flycapture](#) database by local authorities in Wales. [Flycapture](#) is the national database of fly-tipping incidents and enforcement action that was set up by Defra, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association to record the incidents and cost of illegally dumped waste dealt with by local authorities. [Flycapture](#) is managed by the Environment Agency. The Welsh Government receives an extract of the data for use in this statistical release.

9. [Flycapture](#) is a web-based, fly-tipping database for England and Wales which aims to help local authorities and the Environment Agency tackle fly-tipping. It is one of a number of measures to combat fly-tipping, which have been introduced to meet the requirements of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003. [Flycapture](#) also aims to help local authorities improve intelligence on fly-tipping and focus resources on fly-tip hot spots.
10. All contributors to [Flycapture](#) are able to access standard reports and compare figures at local, regional and national level. [Flycapture](#) has been operational since April 2004 and local authorities submit monthly returns.

### **Accuracy**

11. All local authorities in Wales entered 12 separate monthly returns to the Flycapture database between April 2012 and March 2013. The data is therefore considered to be a good assessment of the level of fly-tipping reported to local authorities in Wales.
12. Detailed guidance is available via the Environment Agency website to help data providers gather and complete the monthly data collection returns for [Flycapture](#). The guidance should minimise differences in how different local authorities classify and record fly-tipping incidents. The guidance can be accessed via the following link:  
[http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Research/Flycapture\\_Guidance\\_Text\\_01\\_07\\_2009.pdf](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Research/Flycapture_Guidance_Text_01_07_2009.pdf)
13. Not all incidents of fly-tipping will be reported to a local authority, therefore the figures in this release are considered to be an underestimate of the total amount of the fly-tipping in Wales.
14. The information in this release only covers incidents of fly-tipping dealt with and recorded by local authorities. Incidents dealt with by private landowners are not included. Therefore it is possible the actual number of incidents for Wales is higher than indicated.
15. The total number of fly-tipping incidents recorded by local authorities in Wales (Table 1) should be greater or equal to the total number of fly-tipping incidents by size (Table 4), as Table 4 relates to the fly-tipping incidents cleared by the local authority only, not those cleared by others. However, after carrying out quality assurance checks on historic data this was found not to be the case for 2007-08 and 2010-11. To ensure this issue doesn't occur in future years, validation processes will be improved to ensure consistency between data relating to incidents recorded by local authorities and incidents cleared by local authorities.
16. The costs on the Flycapture database for the size categories 'single items', 'single black bags', 'car boot or less', 'small van loads' and 'transit van loads' are set in the system based on national averages. For the other categories, 'tipper lorry loads' and 'significant multiple loads', the costs are entered by the local authority, however in the guidance national average costs per loads are provided to help local authorities calculate their estimates. This approach aims to reduce differences in local estimation methods and therefore allow for equivalent comparisons to be made at the local authority level. However there is still a large amount of variation between local authorities in the costs relating to 'tipper lorry loads' and 'significant multiple loads'.
17. As estimated clearance costs vary, a rise or decrease in incidents will not necessarily have the same rise or decrease in costs.
18. It should be noted that prosecutions do not necessarily take place in the same year as the relevant fly-tipping incident occurs.
19. Successful outcomes of prosecutions include conditional discharge, community service, fine, custodial sentence and other successful outcomes.

20. Although Ceredigion has taken enforcement actions against fly-tipping incidents, no actions have been recorded on the Flycapture database during the last seven years, and hence the figures in tables 5 and 6 are affected.

### **Validation**

21. The Environment Agency carry out the validation of the data recorded in the Flycapture database. This involves looking at the data for inconsistencies and missing data and speaking directly to the relevant local authorities to resolve such issues.
22. On receiving an extract of the data, Knowledge and Analytical Service (KAS) within the Welsh Government carry out general common sense checks of the Welsh data for the current and previous years. Any possible issues identified are raised with colleagues within the Welsh Government and the Environment Agency who then investigate further.
23. As well as the guidance made available to data providers, the Environment Agency held seminars for Local Authorities in North, South West and South East Wales in 2011 in order to improve understanding and to aid consistency.

### **Comparability and Consistency**

24. [Guidance](#) is provided to assist local authorities with entering their data on the Flycapture system. This helps to ensure that data is comparable across local authorities in Wales. However, there may be some occasions where local authority officers will interpret and categorise incidents differently, for example, around the size of the fly-tipping incident.
25. Flycapture is also used by English local authorities, so it should be possible to compare the figures across the two countries. The latest data currently available for England (at the time of publishing) is for 2012-13: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/environment/waste/flytipping-in-england-annual-statistics/>

### **Revisions**

26. We adhere to the Welsh Government's statistical revisions policy: <http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/about/statement-of-compliance/revisions-errors-postponements/?lang=en>
27. Information for 2012-13 is provisional, and may be subject to change up until 31 December 2013. However, in the past, there have only been very minor revisions or none at all. Therefore a revised statistical release containing the final data has not been issued.

### **Coherence with other statistics**

28. There is a National Strategic Indicator, which is used to measure performance of local authorities at a national level, on the percentage of reported fly tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days. This is calculated by dividing the number of fly-tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days by the total number of incidents recorded by the local authority within the year. Both this release and the National Strategic Indicator use Flycapture as the source of data, however there may be some differences in figures due to the differences in guidance made available to data providers. The data for National Strategic Indicators can be accessed via the StatsWales website: <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Local-Government/National-Strategic-Indicators-of-Local-Authority-Performance>

### **Accessibility**

29. More detailed data is available to download from our StatsWales interactive website at the following link, specifically data broken down by local authority area: <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Fly-tipping>

## Users and Uses

30. Data on fly-tipping is used by the Welsh Government, local authorities and the Environment Agency to help develop policy and monitor the success of that policy. The data is used to monitor the success of Fly-tipping Action Wales (FtAW) which is a Welsh Government funded initiative led by Environment Agency Wales to combat fly-tipping. The progress in reducing fly-tipping incidents/clean up costs is used by the Welsh Government to consider the future funding provision for the FtAW initiative. FtAW, in consultation with Welsh Government, use the data to target resources and campaigns effectively.
31. Fly-tipping statistics are important for policy development and planning the delivery of public services. Some of the uses include:
  - Monitoring of progress towards targets
  - Policy development
  - Advice to Ministers
  - Informing debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond
  - Geographic profiling, comparisons and benchmarking
32. There is a variety of users of fly-tipping statistics including national and local government, researchers, students and individual citizens.
33. The data is also used by the Welsh Government as one of the indicators which monitors the state of the environment in Wales.

## Assessment by the UK Statistics Authority

34. Environment statistics produced by the Welsh Government have been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority. Further information on the assessment report (163) is available on the UK Statistics Authority's website:  
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html>
35. In response to the requirements included in the UK Statistics Authority assessment report, a number of changes have been introduced to this release to provide better information to users. This includes improved commentary and more extensive key quality information, including a glossary.

## Related Statistics for Other UK Countries

### England:

36. As in Wales, [Flycapture](#) is also used by English local authorities. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) publish fly-tipping statistics for England on an annual basis.

Fly-tipping statistics of England can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/environment/waste/flytipping-in-england-annual-statistics/>

### Scotland:

37. The Environment Agency manages a UK wide fly-tipping database called [Flycapture](#); this is free of charge for Scottish local authorities to use. This web based database helps local authorities improve intelligence on fly-tipping and focus resources on hot spots. In Scotland contributing to and using the [Flycapture](#) database is not compulsory but on average over half of local authorities make regular monthly returns enabling access to standard reports highlighting local trends. For further information on fly-tipping in Scotland please refer to the following websites.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA):

[http://www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste\\_regulation/fly-tipping.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_regulation/fly-tipping.aspx)

Dumb Dumpers:

<http://www.dumbdumpers.org/EnforcementAgencies/Flycapture/>

**Northern Ireland:**

38. In 2011, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) set up a new fly-tipping team to progress implementation of a Fly-tipping Framework, working in partnership with local councils. One key objective is to trial different options for effective data capture direct from NIEA and council staff at fly-tipping sites using GPS technology as a possible alternative to the UK Flycapture database. For further information on fly-tipping in Northern Ireland please refer to the following website: <http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/>

## Glossary

**Fly-tipping** is the illegal dumping of waste on to land

### Local authority types:

- **Rural authorities** - Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Powys, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Monmouthshire.
- **Valleys authorities** - Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen. These local authorities contain the 'Heads of the Valleys' action area.
- **Urban authorities** - Swansea, Cardiff, and Newport.
- **Other authorities** - Flintshire, Wrexham, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan

### Land types:

- **Highway** means a public highway or roads the public would assume to be public highway even if not formally adopted e.g. ungated council estate roads. Highway covers both carriageway and pavement.
- **Footpath/bridleway** means a public right of way or a footpath over which the public has been given access both rural and urban; it includes permissive paths, tracks, and footbridges over railways where these are managed and or swept by the local authority.
- **Back alleyway** means back access passages to groups of houses and/or gardens, whether gated or ungated. These may or may not be council owned land.
- **Railway** means railway land whether managed by the train operating company (usually the station area) or Network Rail (track, sidings, embankment, bridges)
- **Council land** means local authority (county, district, town, parish or unitary) owned property including housing estates (managed by council or by others, e.g. Registered Social Landlords), offices, car parks, depots, parks and open spaces etc, unless the property has been leased/transferred to an external body. Do not include back alleyways – see above category.
- **Agricultural** means farmland including farm buildings. It includes forests and open land.
- **Private/residential** means any private land used for residential purposes including grounds, gardens, and private roads, and car parks.
- **Commercial/industrial** means any land used for commercial or industrial purposes including storage and derelict land last used for this purpose
- **Watercourse/bank** means actually in the watercourse or on the bank (of the river, canal, stream, etc).
- **Other land** means any other land type not identified above including harbour mouths and seafronts.

### **Waste types:**

- **Animal carcasses** mean any animals or parts of animals.
- **Green** means any vegetation/prunings and clean soil including tree trunks and branches
- **Vehicle parts** means any mechanical parts, components and panels of vehicles except tyres and batteries (see below)
- **White goods** means fridges, freezers, washing machines and other kitchen appliances
- **Other electrical** means TVs, computer equipment, vacuum cleaners, radios, fluorescent tubes, circuit boards and car batteries etc
- **Tyres** means vehicle tyres regardless of whether they are on the wheel rim or off the rim
- **Asbestos** means all forms of asbestos including cement- or other bonded asbestos
- **Clinical** means hospital or healthcare waste such as blood, tissue, needles, soiled dressings, drugs etc that is infectious or could cause harm in some way.
- **Construction/demolition/excavation** means waste from the construction, repair, maintenance and demolition of buildings and structures including roads.
- **Black bags - commercial** means waste from businesses particularly shops or traders which are not to be picked up by a trade waste collector.
- **Black bags - household** means waste from householders bagged and dumped on the street.
- **Chemical drums** mean containers each with a capacity of 205 litres (45 gallons) or greater that appears to contain chemicals including oils and fuels.
- **Other household waste** means any household waste not covered above and could include the results of house or shed clearances, old furniture, carpets and the waste from small scale DIY works.
- **Other commercial waste** means any commercial or industrial waste not covered above and could include pallets, cardboard boxes, plastics, foam, and any other waste not contained in bags or containers and not due to be collected.
- **Other (unidentified)** is to be used if none of the above applies.

### **Size of fly-tipping incidents:**

- **Single Black Bag** is a single bin bag containing waste.
- **Other Single item** means one piece of furniture or equipment.
- **Car boot load or less** means that the rubbish could be broken down and squeezed into a large boot of a car. About 1 cubic metre maximum/up to 5 large bin bags.
- **Small van load** means bigger than the car boot load but that the rubbish could be broken down and squeezed into an Astra size van. About 4 cubic metres/between 6 and 15 bin bags

- **Transit vanload** means bigger than the small van but that the rubbish could be broken down and squeezed into a transit size van. About 10 cubic metres/between 16 and 30 bin bags. A large 3-piece suite of furniture would fall into this category.
- **Tipper lorry load** means a single load from an 8-wheeled tipper truck.
- **Significant/multiple loads** mean a multiplicity of the above.

#### **Enforcement Action types:**

- **Injunction** is a court order related to fly-tipping that requires a perpetrator to refrain from carrying out the offence.
- **Stop and Search** is a stop operation has been held in conjunction with the police. Waste carriers are asked to produce evidence they are registered waste carriers. It may also involve other agencies/other checks.
- **Formal caution** means that by accepting this, the perpetrator is admitting the offence but they do not have to attend court, but it does remain on the perpetrators record. This is an alternative to taking a full prosecution to court.
- **Prosecution** is when a full file on the case has been produced and the offence is deemed serious enough by the authority that it can only be dealt with in court.
- **Statutory notice** requires the perpetrator to take some action i.e. provide proper waste receptacles etc. Compliance with the notice ends the matter.
- **Fixed penalty notice (FPN)** is a simple way of dealing with some 'smaller' or less impacting incidences. The FPN is in lieu of a fine.
- **Duty of Care Inspection** is when a business has been asked to provide waste transfer notes or a household is investigated for possible breaches of their duty.
- **Warning Letter** is when a letter has been sent or handed to the perpetrators or the land occupiers/owners. If occurring on an estate or street and no particular perpetrator can be identified this could lead to a large number of warning letters being issued.
- **Investigation** is when an enforcement team has recorded the incident, identified the evidence available and has either decided the action to be taken or is considering this.

#### **Prosecution outcome types**

- **Other (successful)** are any other positive results awarded by the court.
- **Community service** is an activity demanded by the court in replace of, or in addition to, other enforcements from the court.
- **Custodial sentence** is a judicial sentence which consists of mandatory custody of the perpetrator.
- **Cases lost** are prosecutions lost in court.
- **Absolute/conditional discharge** An absolute discharge is where the case is taken to court but no punishment is imposed, however if a conditional discharge is issued, the perpetrator has to abide to given conditions to prevent punishment.

- **Fine** is when the perpetrator is given a financial punishment.

Full definitions of terms used in this release, such as the various land types, waste types, etc, are given in the Flycapture guidance:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/data/41333.aspx>

### **Further Information**

Further information is available from the Environment Statistics web site:

<http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/?topic=Environment+and+countryside&lang=en>

Data at a local authority level is available to download from the Environment areas of the StatsWales website: <http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk>

We actively encourage feedback from our users. If you have comments on any issues relating to this statistical release please contact us.

If you require any further information regarding this publication, contact details are as follows:

Rachel Clansey  
Environment and Housing Statistics,  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ  
Tel: 029 2082 6768  
Email: [stats.environment@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stats.environment@wales.gsi.gov.uk)