



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
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Dear Acting Cabinet Secretary,

I have been contacted by the National Farmers Union Scotland reporting a significant spike in fly-tipping across Fife over the last few weeks. As part of their correspondence, they raised the issue of restrictions and charges when visiting recycling centres and asked if I would raise this and some other issues with Fife Council directly. The response from Fife Council said:

“Fly tipping is on the increase and we do have teams dedicated to removing the illegally dumped waste, so it doesn't blight the environment for too long. However, the cost of relaxing restrictions and charges at recycling centres would eclipse the investment in the fly tipping teams. Waste processing charges alone would be astronomical.

We have an Environmental Vandalism Strategy and Board, which focuses very much on education and prevention, because it has not been possible to make any headway with investigations and prosecutions, the Procurator Fiscal is simply not interested. So this is a difficult problem to make an impact with.”

Following from this, I would like to raise two points with you directly. Firstly, I am aware that the £70 million Recycling Improvement Fund was launched in 2021 to provide funding grants to local authorities for improving recycling infrastructure and services across the country. Yet, what we can see from Fife is that the cost of waste processing charges are “astronomical” and that they can't afford to relax restrictions and charges at recycling centres. Is the Scottish Government aware of these concerns being reported from local authorities and what action does it consider taking to address this?

Secondly, the recently enacted Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 gave local authorities additional enforcement powers, allowing them to crack down on flytipping and littering from cars. However, the response from Fife Council suggests they are struggling to make any progress with enforcement through the Procurator Fiscal. Is this also something the Scottish Government is aware of, and if not, will it look into this matter to see what the issue is in order that some progress can be made?

Kind regards,

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