

From: correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk on behalf of Ministerial Contact Unit
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Sent: 30 January 2018 13:43

To: MissAliceBlogg@hotmail.com

Subject: Roadside litter

Dear Miss Blogg,

Thank you for your email of 7 January to Joseph Johnson MP about roadside litter. Your email has been passed to Defra as the Department with responsibility for this policy area and I have been asked to reply.

We recognise and share your frustration with the persistent blight of litter and fly-tipping on our landscapes, roads and communities. We want our whole country to be a great place to live in, with clean water and air; beautiful countryside to enjoy and urban areas that are prosperous, vibrant and welcoming. A littered environment is bad for our wellbeing, and bad for the economy.

Councils are independent bodies and are accountable to their electorate rather than to Ministers or Government Departments. Where a member of the public has a concern about an action, service or decision of their local council, we suggest that first and foremost they make a complaint to the council using its formal complaints system. This can not only result in action, but can also alert the council to an issue it did not know existed.

If local redress is not available, and if you consider that you have suffered a personal injustice arising from maladministration by the council, you may wish to contact the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (www.lgo.org.uk, 0300 061 0614). The Ombudsman is independent of both central and local government and can investigate complaints about councils and, if they find for the complainant, recommend redress.

As you are aware, Highways England (formerly the Highways Agency) is responsible for clearing litter from motorways and some trunk roads, while councils remain responsible for the cleaning of other, more minor roads. You can find details of the roads for which Highways England is responsible at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/responsibility-for-clearing-litter-from-motorways-and-roads.

If you are unhappy with the service provided by Highways England, you can find instructions on how to complain at:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure.

The Government is committed to encouraging local solutions for local problems. This is particularly relevant in dealing with litter and fly-tipping problems, which require a local approach, tailored to the characteristics of the area and the community in which the problems occur.

The role of central Government is to enable and support this local action: providing a clear legal framework of rights, responsibilities and powers, setting national standards and,

where possible, making sure that the costs of dealing with litter issues are passed to those responsible for causing the problem.

We published the Litter Strategy for England in April 2017, setting out our aim to clean up the country and deliver a substantial reduction in litter and littering within a generation. The Litter Strategy is ambitious and brings together communities, businesses, charities and schools to bring about real change by focussing on three key themes: education and awareness; improving enforcement; and better cleaning and access to bins. A copy of the Litter Strategy can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/litter-strategy-for-england>

Yours sincerely,
Simone Cooper
Ministerial Contact Unit - Defra