

From: "correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk on behalf of Ministerial Contact Unit" <correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
Date: 20 April 2018 at 17:10:17 BST
To: sally.a.hart@icloud.com
Subject: Litter - Ref: T02018/06586
Reply-To: Ministerial Contact Unit <correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk>

Dear Ms Hart,

Thank you for your email of 12 March to Lord Gardiner about litter including along roads. I have been asked to reply.

Local councils are responsible for keeping their "relevant land" clear of litter and refuse. For any local litter issue, we recommend contacting the council to make sure it is aware of the problem. It is up to councils to decide how best to meet their statutory duty to keep their relevant land clear of litter and refuse.

All councils have a complaints procedure and if you are frustrated by lack of action or cleaning by their local council, they should first complain formally to the council itself. I appreciate that they may have done this already.

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.

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.

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 brings together communities, businesses, charities and schools to bring about real change by focusing 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: www.gov.uk/government/publications/litter-strategy-for-england.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Forbes