



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Date: 17/07/2020

Dear Mr Silverman,

Thank you for your emails of 30 June and 9 July to Defra's Permanent Secretary, Tamara Finkelstein, on the subject of the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse. As the officials responsible, she has asked us to reply on her behalf.

When the Litter Strategy was published in 2017, we acknowledged that some parts of the Code needed updating to take account of the changed technological and economic environment in which land-managers now operate. We also committed to reviewing the Code and updating it as necessary, including clarifying the standards which we expect to apply to land with 'special circumstances'.

In the second Annual Report on the Litter Strategy, published in September 2019, we stated that we had deferred this work until 2020. You will appreciate that the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in adjustments to the Department's priorities, but we anticipate resuming our work on the review within the year.

Any upcoming changes to the Code will be subject to a consultation process, where your input will be greatly appreciated.

In relation to the request made in your email of 30 June 2020, Defra does not hold any reports which assess how the changes brought about by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 have impacted on litter, fly-tipping and graffiti.

Kind regards,

Joe Minns

Head of Local Environmental Quality