



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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John Biggs
Mayor of Tower Hamlets
London Borough of Tower Hamlets

27th July 2017

mayor@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Dear Mayor Biggs,

Increasing household recycling is one of my key priorities as Minister responsible for waste management and one which I expect we both want to achieve. This sits alongside our UK obligation to recycle 50% of household waste by 2020 with future higher targets expected to be decided at EU level and with our long-term ambition to be one of the most resource efficient countries in the world.

I appreciate the significant role local authorities have played with increasing the amount of recycling in England, improving the amount of material recycled from around 10% to over 43% in the last 10 years. However, I am concerned to see that the most recent 'waste from households' recycling rate for London Borough of Tower Hamlets was 26.7% in 2015/16.

This does concern me greatly. I would be interested to understand any particular reasons or challenges your authority is facing locally with this? I am keen to hear where any particular issues have already been identified and future plans put in place to try and tackle this issue. It would be useful to know your contractual status, including when the last review was undertaken and when the next one is due. I would also be keen to know your plans or collaboration with other councils and your intentions to extend recycling.

My team would be very happy to discuss any of this with you. Please get in touch with them via [REDACTED]

I look forward to hearing from you,

[REDACTED]
DR THERESE COFFEY MP

Enc. List of recycling rates by council for 2015/16

