

Street and Environmental Cleanliness

Indicator

Street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter) (NI 195a)

Status



Performance is reasonably good, with current direction of travel is unknown.

Overview

In Worcestershire, the proportion of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter is recorded at a district level. This information is collected to inform National Indicator NI195a, which forms part of a suite of 4 NI195 indicators, each measuring a different aspect of public land cleanliness. The other indicators are: detritus (NI195b); graffiti (NI195c); and fly-posting (NI195d).

NI195 is measured in accordance with the methodology of the Local Environmental Quality Survey of England (LEQSE). This methodology has been developed by Keep Britain Tidy.

The measurement of litter is made up of the results of surveying 'relevant land', which is defined by DEFRA as "land that a local authority or land manager is responsible for". This land is set out in section 86(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and includes Retail, Office and Commercial, Housing Land, Industrial Areas, Roads *and* Public Open Spaces. The definition specifically excludes relevant land of a designated statutory undertaker, relevant land of a designated educational institution, and relevant Crown land, such as naval military or air force bases. A full descriptive list of the land uses used in the NI195 survey is available online at:

<http://cleanliness-indicator.defra.gov.uk/manual.aspx?section=6#4>

The Department for Communities and Local Government announced a host of changes to the way that the performance of Local Authorities is monitored. These changes included the replacement of the National Indicator Set with what would be a single, pared-down list of data. This has meant that Local Authorities do not any longer have any obligation to provide data on NI195 performance. As a result, it is unclear whether this monitoring indicator will be available in future editions of the State of the Environment report.

Performance

Performance for 2009/10:

District	Target	Performance (Proportion of 'relevant land and highways' assessed as having deposits of litter)	2008/09 results for comparison
Bromsgrove	13%	8%	6%
Malvern Hills	4%	6%	4%
Redditch	6%	8%	3%
Worcester City	9%	6%	11%
Wychavon	5%	2%	3%
Wyre Forest	12%	9%	5%
Worcestershire	9%	7%	7%

Note: lower percentages indicate cleaner streets.

The 2009/10 performance shows that overall, the proportion of land within the county suffering from litter is the same as it was in 2008/09. Breaking the result down by individual districts, however, shows some more notable changes; results for most of the districts (4 out of 6) suggest that the litter problem has actually worsened, although not dramatically so. The most significant change has occurred in Worcester City, where the proportion has fallen from 11% to 6% in the space of a single year.

Geographical Context

In the West Midlands region in 2009/10, 5% of relevant land and highways was assessed as having deposits of litter. No national figure is available for 2009/10, but in 2008/09, 5% of relevant land and highways in England was assessed as having deposits of litter.

Actions

Worcestershire's six district councils are responsible for keeping adopted streets, footways and land clean and free of litter. As stated above, it remains unclear whether reporting on levels of litter will continue.

Further Information

Reporting on NI195 is collated nationally by the Government. An annual report on the results is available from www.keepbritaintidy.org.