# UK government launches tech-driven crackdown on soaring fly-tipping cases



The UK Government has announced a robust new strategy targeting the escalating problem of fly-tipping and illegal waste dumping, urging local councils to adopt a much more aggressive approach to tackle the issue. This crackdown comes in response to a sharp increase in fly-tipping incidents, which saw a 20% rise in 2022 compared to 2018-19, amounting to approximately 1.15 million cases according to statistics from the Department for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Central to the new measures is the enhanced use of technology, including drones and mobile CCTV cameras, to monitor, identify, and capture vehicles involved in fly-tipping activities. These technological tools aim to improve enforcement and facilitate the seizure of offending vehicles. Councils will also gain the authority to destroy vehicles used in illegal dumping, a power that until now has been sparingly used, leading to inconsistent enforcement nationwide. Notably, just two councils were responsible for nearly two-thirds of all enforcement actions related to vehicle seizures last year.

Environment Secretary Steve Reed underscored the government’s firm stance during a visit to a car-crushing facility in Wokingham, Berkshire. Speaking to Gloucestershire Live, Reed stated: "Waste criminals and fly-tippers who blight our towns and villages have gone unpunished for too long. That ends today. The Government is calling time on fly-tipping. I will not stand by while this avalanche of rubbish buries our communities." He further explained the government’s intent to use modern surveillance technology to both punish those responsible and deter potential offenders by seizing and crushing the vehicles involved.

Alongside these enforcement actions, legislative reforms are proposed to shift the financial burden for vehicle seizure and storage from councils to the offenders themselves, potentially easing the costs placed on local authorities dealing with clean-up efforts.

The Environment Agency will also receive increased resources to tighten regulation of the waste industry by issuing permits and conducting identity and criminal record checks on waste operators. Philip Duffy, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, highlighted the serious impact of waste crime, saying: "Waste crime is toxic. Criminals' thoughtless actions harm people, places, and the economy, blighting our communities and disrupting legitimate businesses. We're determined to bring these criminals to justice through tough enforcement action and prosecutions." He affirmed the agency’s support for the government’s crackdown, aimed at removing rogue operators from the waste management sector.

The new strategy aims to present a comprehensive response to the widespread and costly problem of illegal waste dumping, with the government emphasising both punitive and preventative measures. Local councils will play a key role in implementing these changes, backed by legislative support and enhanced technological tools.

The Gloucestershire Live is reporting on this issue as part of an ongoing conversation about the impact of fly-tipping in local communities across the country.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-considers-increasing-fines-for-littering-and-fly-tipping> - This announcement discusses the government's consideration of increasing fines for fly-tipping, supporting the article's claim about the crackdown on illegal waste dumping.
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-crackdown-on-litter-and-fly-tipping> - This report outlines the government's crackdown on fly-tipping, including increased fines and legislative reforms, corroborating the article's content on the new strategy.
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-clamps-down-on-fly-tipping> - This announcement details the government's new measures to combat fly-tipping, including increased fines and digital waste tracking, supporting the article's claims.
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/now-the-pm-backs-pccs-call-for-tougher-sanctions-on-fly-tipping> - This news release discusses the Prime Minister's support for tougher sanctions on fly-tipping, including increased fines, aligning with the article's mention of enhanced penalties.
6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fly-tipping-enforcement-up-and-incidents-down> - This report provides statistics on fly-tipping incidents and enforcement actions, supporting the article's mention of a 20% rise in fly-tipping incidents in 2022 compared to 2018-19.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMiqAFBVV95cUxPRkFyNVZXQ0RPTkQ3N09PeUFkRENDUUFfbU1jMmt1dGNjNjBRRFg1M2dvWmE5cE03WGdfYnFyRlNoS3htRE1JTDAtMWFwZVp0UEtxZWx4VDFJdGRJZkhqM2dqZ3BGTGcxdjd1aXJRLVZra283VURuTkgtOHB0R1VxeHVCTDcwVjRCdi12NFd3YzVUbE5YMEtYREsyMWVuTjZPdDZfOUYzTVDSAa4BQVVfeXFMT1pzN2U5UUItQjFuXzl0YjNWNUt6ekFiYUlhUnFyOXlzMExCbXZJcmdFNE5LSkJ1T2ZEWFV5c3BmbTRSMDl6ZUdLdnJtMURJX2ZpOHcyY1Q0ZVVURDdQcFNxQjU1TVpZY0hfdFRHTDVHei10QndrM3M0cmcyN3NPeGZwdDZjSjN2NHFBSHY4ZXFic1VjMWdUWHhkbF9mVTYzU2pUS1dhd01UcThqTS1R?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data