# Peterborough tops fly-tipping statistics in the East of England



The latest statistics from the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) have identified Peterborough as the city with the highest rate of fly-tipping incidents in the East of England. The data reveals that the city experienced 46 incidents of fly-tipping per 1,000 people, which is notably higher than its nearest competitor, Luton, with 44 incidents per 1,000 people.

Peterborough City Council reported a total of 10,128 fly-tipping incidents, while Luton reported 10,194. Angus Ellis, the council's cabinet member for environment and transport, commented on the figures, stating that they are "not a like-for-like comparison" because Peterborough encompasses both urban and rural areas where fly-tipping has historically been problematic. He noted the council's commitment to tackling the issue, highlighting initiatives such as the installation of cameras in hotspots and increased fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping offences.

The criminalisation of waste dumping has broad environmental implications, with Phil Davies, head of the Joint Unit for Waste Crime at the Environment Agency, revealing that illegal waste tipping costs the UK approximately £1 billion annually. He mentioned that organised criminal groups are increasingly targeting the waste industry, exacerbating the problem.

Other areas in the region have also reported substantial fly-tipping incidents. West Northamptonshire had an average of nearly 38 incidents per 1,000 people, with Semilong Road in Northampton logging 672 reports in 2023 alone. Norwich recorded 37 incidents per 1,000 people, while Basildon in Essex came in at 32 incidents per 1,000 residents.

In an effort to manage waste more effectively, Peterborough City Council introduced permits for its Fengate Household Recycling Centre in February 2024. However, some residents have expressed concerns that this could inadvertently lead to an uptick in fly-tipping. Harry Machin, chairman of the Peterborough Litter Wombles Association, indicated that since the group's formation in 2021, the amount of fly-tipping has increased. He noted that volunteers routinely encounter smaller fly-tips, including household waste, DIY materials, furniture, and even tyres, items which are often not included in official statistics.

The issue of fly-tipping extends beyond urban areas as it poses significant challenges for landowners, particularly farmers. Cath Crowther, regional director of the Country Land and Business Association in the East, stated that farmers often bear the financial burden of clearing waste left on their land, sometimes on a weekly basis. Crowther called it "unjust" for local authorities to threaten action against private landowners, effectively criminalising victims of waste crime.

As commentary from Adam Hug, an environment spokesperson for the Local Government Association, noted, the penalties currently imposed on offenders do not sufficiently reflect the severity of the crimes committed. Hug urged the government to reassess sentencing guidelines to ensure that offenders face greater fines for serious violations.

The ongoing dialogue about fly-tipping continues to spotlight its impact on communities in the East of England, prompting both concerns and calls for action from various stakeholders in the region.

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

## References

* <https://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/news/environment/fly-tipping-on-the-rise-in-peterborough-as-record-month-recorded-4695046> - This article supports the claim that Peterborough is experiencing a significant rise in fly-tipping incidents, with a notable increase in reported cases. It also highlights the council's efforts to tackle the issue.
* <https://www.vanguardcleaning.co.uk/resources/news-insights/the-worst-areas-for-fly-tipping-in-england/> - This resource provides data on the prevalence of fly-tipping in various areas of England, including Peterborough and Luton, which helps contextualize their fly-tipping rates.
* <https://www.hippowaste.co.uk/blog/fly-tipping-statistics-uk/> - This blog post offers insights into the broader trends of fly-tipping in England, including the overall increase in incidents and the financial impact of illegal waste dumping.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency> - The Environment Agency's role in addressing waste crime and the financial impact of fly-tipping is crucial. Although not directly linked to the article, it provides context on the agency's efforts to combat illegal waste activities.
* <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/local-government-association-calls-stronger-penalties-fly-tipping> - This article from the Local Government Association supports the call for stronger penalties against fly-tipping offenders, aligning with Adam Hug's commentary on the need for reassessing sentencing guidelines.