

Tougher enforcement to tackle fly-tipping and protect the environment

Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes.

Stricter penalties for fly-tipping and littering.

Enforcement against householders who fail to ensure that their waste will be disposed of legally.

Speaker: Seth Cornfield, Waste Team Leader

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils



Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes

Background

- For the 2023/24-year, local authorities in England dealt with **1.15 million** fly-tipping incidents, an increase of **6%** from the 1.08 million reported in 2022/23.
- Local authorities carried out **528,000 enforcement actions** in 2023/24, which was a slight decrease from the 530,000 in 2022/23.
- The number of **fixed penalty notices** issued was **63,000** in 2023/24, a **decrease of 5%** from 67,000 in 2022/23. This is the second most common action after investigations and accounted for **12%** of all actions in 2023/24.
- The total number of court fines decreased by 8% from 1,491 in 2022/23 to 1,378 in 2023/24, with the combined value of these fines decreasing by 7% from £785,000 to £730,000.

Source: [Fly-tipping statistics for England, 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK](#)

2024/25 data due February 2026



Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes

More organised waste crime!



Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes

Why?

- More for less?
- Local Authority enforcement resources are now expected to cover a broader range of subject areas?
- More complex investigations for Local Authorities?
- More intelligent/organised criminals?
- Availability of cheaper, easier technology for criminals to access?



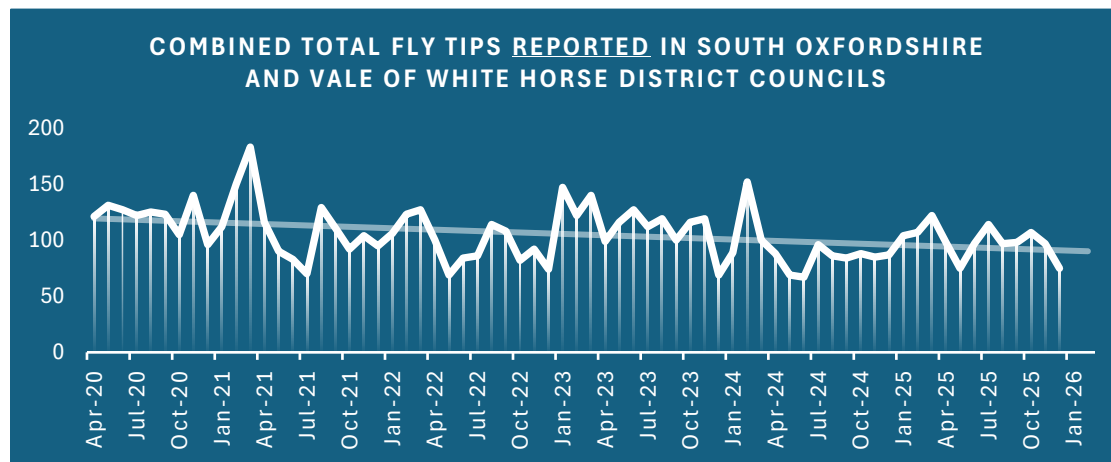
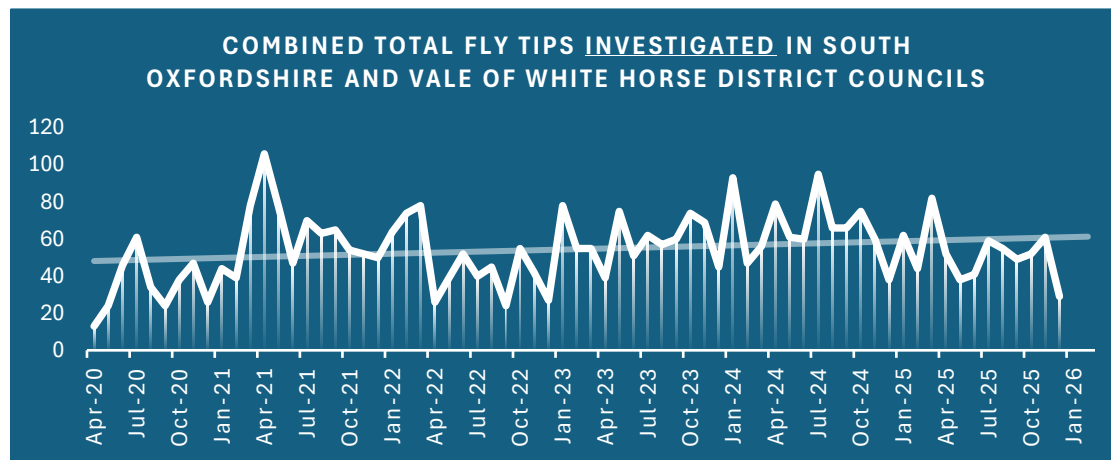
Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes

What can we do:

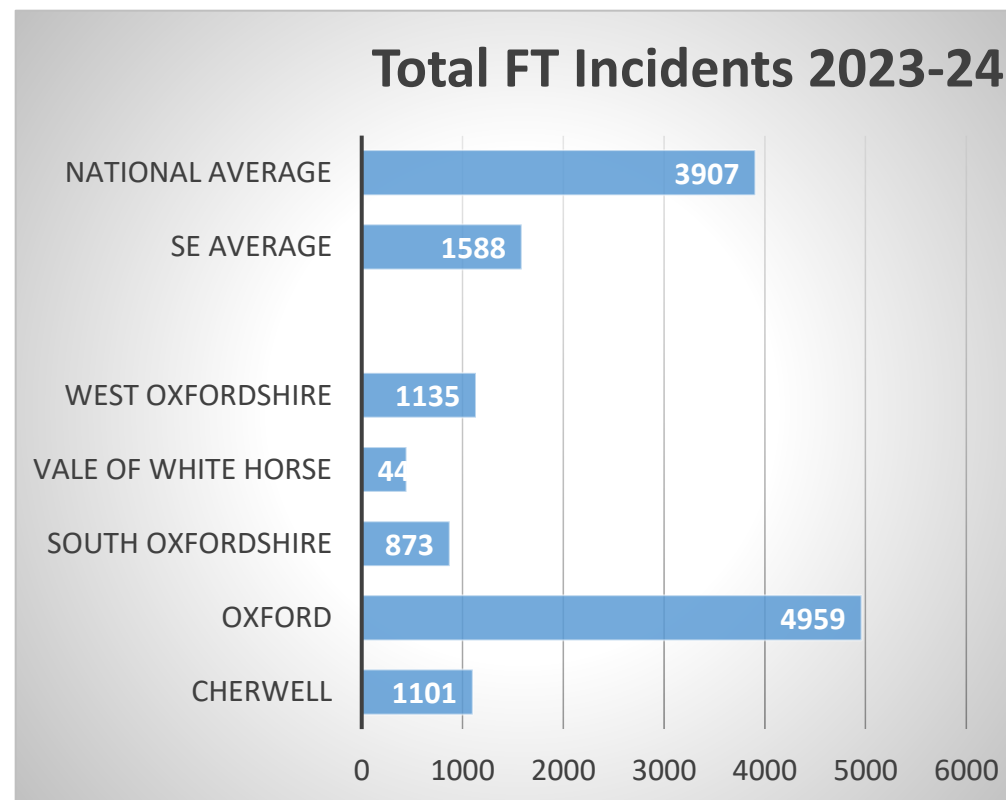
- Strengthen Enforcement
- Better Communication/Intelligence Sharing
- Greater Public Awareness and Demand Reduction



Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes



Strengthen Enforcement



Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes

It is always worth a visit!



Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes

Strengthen Enforcement

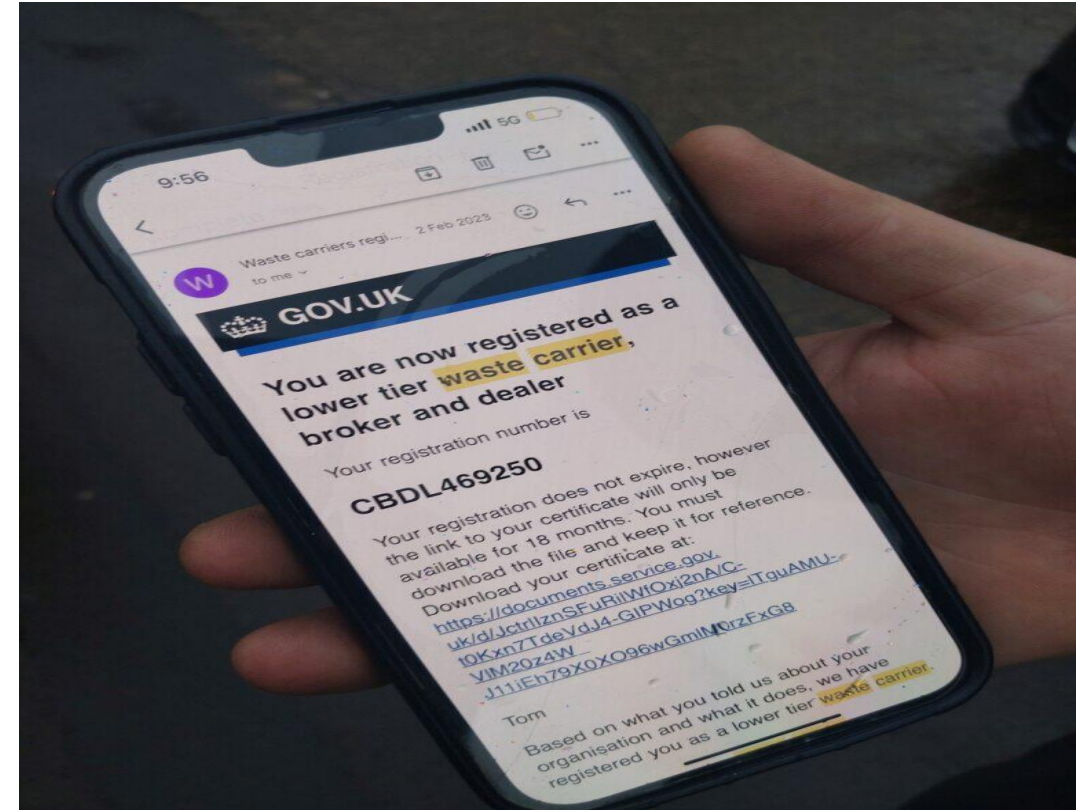
Utilising other services as your eyes and ears

- Other Council Departments, Environmental Health, Car Parks, Parks....
- Other authorities
- Contractors
- Landowners



Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes

Strengthen Enforcement: - Partnership Working



Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes

Communication/Intelligence Sharing

Oxford Resource and Waste Partnership Enforcement Meetings

- 5 District Councils
- County Council
- Environment Agency
- Thames Valley Police

Rural Crime Action Group Meetings

TVP, CLA, NFU, Landowners, - Rural Crime WhatsApp Groups



Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes

Public Awareness and Demand Reduction



Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes

Public Awareness and Demand Reduction

Vale of White Horse District Council
Published by Orlo · 8 January at 11:02 ·

Are you or someone you know having a bathroom refurbished? This waste from a bathroom suite, including the toilet, has been dumped in a farmer's field near Strattenborough Castle Farm, off the B4508 near Watchfield.

If you have any information regarding this incident, or know where this rubbish may have come from, please contact - 01235 422146 / envirocrime@southandvale.gov.uk



South Oxfordshire District Council

Published by [Andy Roberts](#) · 2 July 2025 ·

A father and son have been ordered to pay more than £2,500 following a serious fly-tipping incident at Shotover Country Park near Oxford.

You can read more about this story via the link in the comments.



Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes



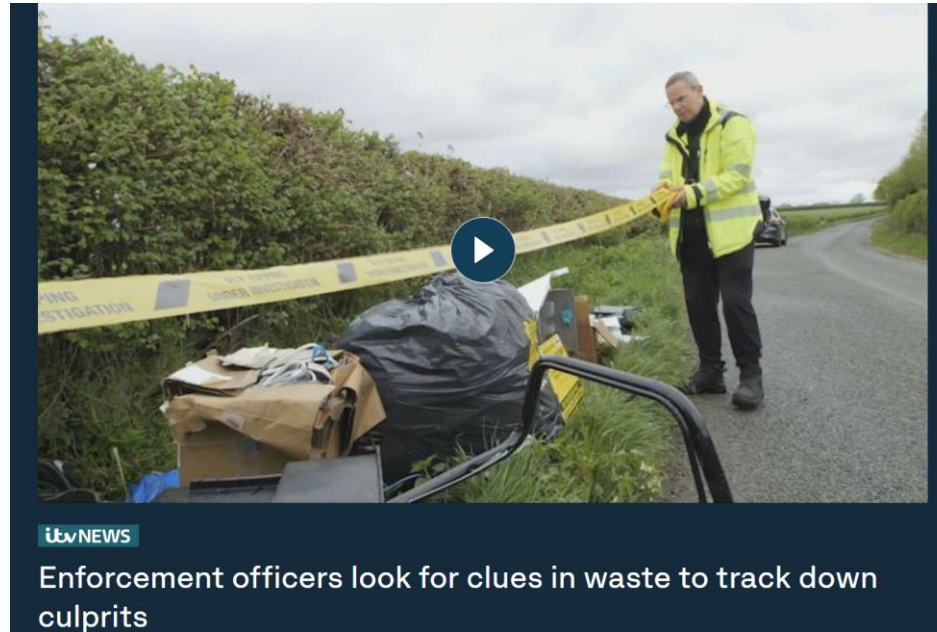
Public Awareness and Demand Reduction

- Social Media post
- Fined £1,801.34



Stepping up efforts to combat environmental crimes

Public Awareness and Demand Reduction



[Enforcement officers look for clues in waste to track down culprits - Latest From ITV News](#)



Stricter penalties for fly-tipping and littering

In 2023 on-the spot fines for litter, graffiti and fly-tipping rose as part of a crackdown on anti-social behaviour

The maximum amount those caught fly-tipping could be fined increased from £400 to £1,000

The maximum amount those who litter or graffiti could be fined increased from £150 to £500

The maximum amount those who breach their household waste duty of care could be fined increased from £400 to £600



Stricter penalties for fly-tipping and littering

Increased penalties mean environmental crime isn't cheaper than compliance.

But are they causing more work?



Stricter penalties for fly-tipping and littering

What next?

- Court fines and awarded costs need to increase; otherwise, offenders will have a greater incentive to contest the matter in court rather than pay the FPN.
- Courts need to treat fly-tipping as an offence first, rather than focusing primarily on the individual's ability to pay and should make greater use of suspended sentences or custodial sentences for anyone convicted of a second fly-tipping offence.



Enforcement against householders

Legislation:

Under section 34(2A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 the occupiers of domestic property disposing of household waste have a duty of care for the disposal of that waste.

You may give the FPN when an individual appears to have failed to comply with their duty of care under section 34(2A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in England. For example:

- where fly-tipped waste can be traced back to an individual who is found to have failed to take reasonable steps to ensure that they transferred the waste to an authorised person
- where an unauthorised carrier is found to be carrying household waste that was directly transferred to them by the occupier of a domestic property
- where an individual is found to have transferred their household waste to an unauthorised person at a site that does not have a permit or exemption
- Source: [Guidance for local authorities on household waste duty of care fixed penalty notices - GOV.UK](#)



Enforcement against householders

When you should not or cannot issue fixed penalties:

- Proportionate use
- Local authority waste collections
- Tradespersons
- Household waste cleared by landlords
- Investigating the fly-tipper
- Opting for prosecution



Enforcement against householders



Vale of White Horse District Council

Sponsored ·



If you pay someone to remove rubbish from your property and it's then fly-tipped, you could be fined or prosecuted.

Don't risk it, make sure you stay legal by following the S.C.R.A.P code.



whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Check how to stay legal

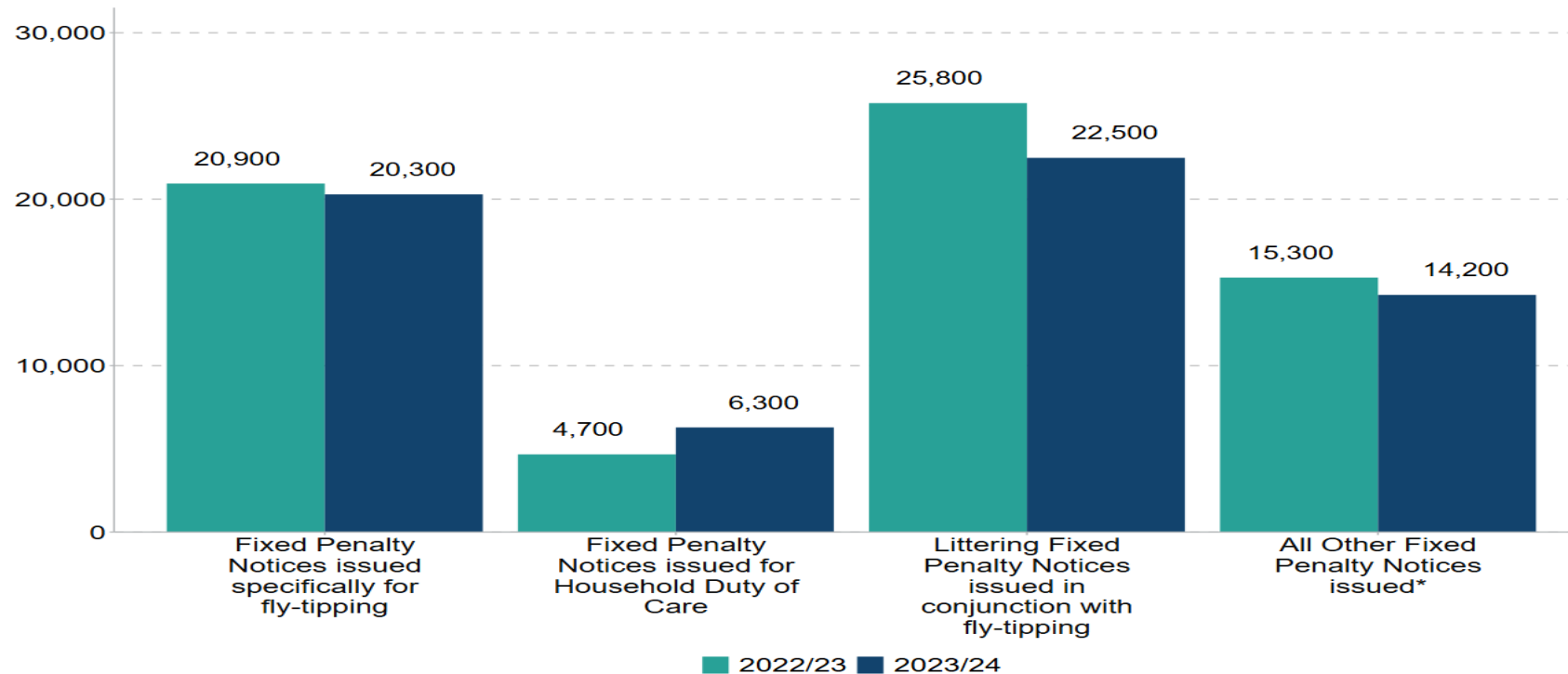
By law, you are responsi...

[Learn more](#)



Enforcement against householders

Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for fly-tipping, by type, in England, 2022/23 and 2023/24



Source: WasteDataFlow, Defra



Any Questions?

Seth.Cornfield@southandvale.gov.uk

www.southoxon.gov.uk

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

