

June 2016

Explanatory notes on the new Question 100 question and impacts of this on the format of the raw data and reporting

A new question structure, "Question 100" to replace all the various existing treatment questions (eg Q56, 58, 19, 35), was introduced on a voluntary basis from April 2014. Up to around 90 local authorities in England used this new question to report their waste management practices over the quarters in 2014/15. Q100 became mandatory in April 2015 where all local authorities in England reported under Q100.

It provides a more flexible structure to enable local authorities to report a more complete and transparent representation of the more complex waste treatment practices that occur that cannot be accurately captured under the old question structure. It also provides the opportunity for local authorities to report in more detail the further treatment and disposal of certain waste types such as refuse derived fuel (RDF), which would have been a final output previously. Where Local Authorities have provided this additional reporting, it means that where waste treatment might previously have all been reported as 'recovery' (ie production of RDF), it could now be shown as incineration with energy recovery with some as disposal to landfill. The new Q100 has not affected data reported on waste recycled.

As a consequence of Q100, the raw data structure is significantly different so for 2014/15 it has been necessary to split the data for Local Authorities that reported under Q100 and non-Q100. For a number of Local Authorities, the change was made part way through the year. Details of which question structure was used by each Local Authority for each quarter during 2014/15 are provided. The data structure for the collection questions is unchanged. [see attached excel file for the Local authority list - provided in additional information].

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