

7 September 2021

[REDACTED]  
Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**REF: OIA 050/21 - REQUEST FOR STATISTICS RE RECYCLING BINS**

We refer to your official information request dated 20 August 2021 statistics regarding recycling bins.

The following is in answer to your concerns about the new glass crate size for Buller Residents put together by Juliana Ruiz, Waste Management Coordinator:

Please note that the new glass crate size fits the average amount of glass recycling that is put out for collection by residents. The average of glass collected from the kerbside collection services is 11,800 kg every single fortnightly collection. Given that 5,969 properties are served, the typical amount collected fortnightly in each glass crate is 2kg.

In this way, waste management statistics show that most of the glass generated from kerbside collection services can fit perfectly into a 45L glass crate. Residents who need to recycle larger quantities may drop off their glass for free in Westport and Reefton Transfer Stations during opening hours.

Please also consider that the main reason for the glass crate size alteration is that 60L crates currently in use in Buller no longer meet Health and Safety standards. Smart Environmental reviewed that a 45L glass crate, that fully loaded weighs 16kg, is an appropriate weight limit for repetitive lifting, whereas the 60L glass crates fully loaded weigh 21kg. The size reduction will reduce the weight and decrease the likelihood of work-related injuries as our drivers have to lift hundreds of them during recycling collection. To finalise, please note that all newly issued glass crates will have a 45L capacity, whereas that the residents who are currently using a 60L glass crate can continue to use this one.

BDC apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the Buller District Council by return email to [lgoima@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:lgoima@bdc.govt.nz).

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible.

Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/your-council/request-for-official-information/responses-to-lgoima-requests/> with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely,



**Mike Duff**  
General Manager – Infrastructure Services