

Dear Resident,

The Environment Agency are the national regulator for the waste industry and we enforce environmental law. We are writing to you to make you aware that we are investigating an alleged illegal waste operation in your community at Bentley Hall Farm, Bentley Hall Road, Walshaw, Bury, BL8 3PH. Initial investigations show that this site has not been granted an environmental permit by the Environment Agency so it should not be receiving or processing waste.

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service have been tackling a fire at these premises since Tuesday 21st April and our officers have been out on the ground to support the response of the fire service to minimise the impact to the environment. At all times whilst on site our officers followed the strict social distancing and Public Health England Health and Safety advice to ensure that they were minimising any risk of catching or spreading the coronavirus. The current travel restrictions introduced to combat the virus are having an impact on our investigation and the visible action that we are able to take, however we are still taking action in line with the current government guidelines.

During this difficult time we are asking the community to assist our investigation by reporting any illegal waste activity. If you see or suspect someone is handling waste incorrectly or wish to report large scale illegal dumping please contact our 24 hour incident hotline on **0800 80 70 60** or email [Incident Communication Service@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Incident.Communication.Service@environment-agency.gov.uk). You can also report it anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at www.crimestoppers-uk.org or call **0800 555 111**.

Smaller instances of fly tipping should be reported directly to your **local council**. Details of who to contact can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/report-flytipping>.

We thank you for your time and please stay safe

Yours faithfully,

Environmental Crime Team at the Environment Agency
Richard Fairclough House, Knutsford Road, Warrington, WA4 1HT

Please turn over for further information about the Environment Agency and waste crime.



Our regulation

We regulate waste sites to ensure they are complying with the law and are operating in compliance with their permit.

Our prevention, disruption and enforcement

We use our intelligence and that shared by our partners to proactively disrupt and prevent waste crime.

We will investigate reports of illegal waste activity, including hazardous waste and large scale illegal dumping.

Impacts of waste crime

We are working to protect and enhance the environment in your local community by preventing and disrupting waste crime.

Waste crime damages the environment and harms human health. It blights communities by affecting property prices and ruins valuable community spaces. It costs legitimate businesses and taxpayers millions each year. Illegal operators undercut legitimate businesses and harm their reputation, undermining those who operate within the law.

Householder Waste Duty of Care

We all create waste, and we all have a responsibility to ensure our waste is handled correctly. You must make sure you know where your waste goes so it doesn't end up in the hands of operators who break the law.

'Duty of Care' Needs to Know

Householder waste includes anything that you are disposing of from your home, including furniture, old appliances and mattresses.

It's important that you take steps to:

- only pass your waste on to a registered waste carrier. Your local authority is an authorised waste carrier.
- check online to see if the people handling your waste are registered waste carriers at: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>
- ensure the people handling your waste are complying with their own duty of care responsibilities and where appropriate report any suspect activity.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency