

# HAVE YOU BEEN OFFERED WASTE FOR INFILL ON YOUR FARM OR OTHER PROPERTY?

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1. As the cost of legal disposal of waste increases in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland, criminals are making a great deal of money by actively searching for cheap, illegal disposal sites. Farmland is unfortunately a popular place to illegally dump waste. You may be offered payment for the waste, or an offer may be made to raise or reclaim an area of land on your property. Some of those involved with this activity are organised criminals.
2. Waste ranges from materials produced by the demolition of buildings, preparation of building sites (including clay, soil and earth), material from skips and biodegradable household and commercial waste, frequently from the Republic of Ireland. Waste also includes the material generated from road works and the construction of new roads.
3. Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) has formed an Environmental Crime Team dedicated to dealing with those involved in illegal waste disposal, with a target to reduce the activity dramatically.

## If you are offered waste you need to be aware that:

1. You will be committing offences under waste legislation, most of which carry a maximum fine of £20,000 if convicted in a Magistrates Court or unlimited fines in Crown Court. Prison sentences are available in either court. While the waste remains on your land the offences are ongoing, so you could be prosecuted repeatedly. Those who bring the waste onto your land, will leave you with an ongoing serious problem and are likely to evade detection themselves.
2. In almost all cases where waste has been accepted for infill illegally, there is a risk of pollution of the environment – air, land and water. This could affect you, your family and employees, livestock and your neighbours. Pollution from waste generally continues for a period of decades and because of this, waste is detectable in land for a long period of time after it has been buried.
3. Apart from being prosecuted for the illegal disposal, the financial liability ensuing from illegal waste disposal sites can be massive. For example the cost to remove 10,000 tonnes of biodegradable waste and dispose of it legally is in the region of £1 million.

If you wish to accept waste on your land, you should contact the Land and Resource Management section of EHS well in advance. You can then establish if your idea is feasible and find out what permissions you need to apply for. You must not accept waste until the necessary permissions have been granted.

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