





# CONTENTS

Introduction .....	2
Headline Results.....	4
An Overview of Local Environmental Quality Across Wales.....	5
All Wales Cleanliness Indicator .....	5
Streets Reaching an Acceptable Standard of Cleanliness .....	6
Cleanliness by Land Use.....	7
Litter Types and Sources.....	7
Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators (AEQIs) .....	9
A) Land Use.....	11
B) Foam Polystyrene Litter .....	12
C) Drinks Receptacles .....	12
Appendices.....	14
Appendix 1: Survey Methodology .....	14
Appendix 2: Survey Dates 2018-19.....	16
Appendix 3: Headline Local Authority Results 2018-19 .....	17
Appendix 4: How the Cleanliness Indicator is Calculated .....	18

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# Introduction

This All Wales Report has been prepared by Keep Wales Tidy using data collected from the Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) validation surveys between 2007-08 and 2018-19. LEAMS surveys provide a 'snapshot' of litter and other local environmental quality issues across Wales and allows us to track trends over time.

Funding for the surveys has been provided by the Local Environmental Quality (LEQ) branch of the Welsh Government and surveys have been undertaken annually since 2007-08.

In 2018-19, Keep Wales Tidy staff surveyed a total of 3,216 streets across Wales. During the survey, we measure the quality of the local environment by recording the:

- **Street cleanliness grade based on how much litter and dog fouling is present**
- **Types and sources of litter present**
- **Amount of graffiti, vandalism, fly-posting, dog fouling, weeds, detritus and chewing gum staining visible**

The current methodology can be found in [Appendix 1](#). Keep Wales Tidy undertakes these surveys to provide independent data for:

- **Data Unit Wales for Public Accountability Measure for Clean Streets (PAM/010: percentage of streets that are clean)**
- **The Welsh Government for use by the Ministers and other policy makers in the National Assembly for Wales**
- **The 22 Welsh local authorities on the local environmental quality issues within each of their areas\***
- **Other organisations with an interest in local environmental quality**

The information in this report for 2018-19 is taken from the surveys undertaken in each local authority in Wales. In 2018-19, the surveys covered a 6% sample of streets, selected at random from a full list of adopted highways provided by the relevant local authority. LEAMS surveys do not extend to parks, green spaces, beaches or busy roads and motorways.

Surveys were undertaken on weekdays between April 2018 and March 2019 during daylight hours. The full list of dates can be viewed in [Appendix 2](#).

\* Each local authority has been provided with reports for each financial year for the area for which they are responsible. These reports are the property of the local authority, and it is for each local authority to decide whether or not to publish or share their individual report and results.



Keep Wales Tidy has calculated the following independent national figures:

- **A Cleanliness Indicator**
- **The average percentage of streets reaching an acceptable standard of cleanliness**

These scores have also been calculated for each local authority using the information from our surveys. The data for local authorities in 2018-19 is included in [Appendix 3](#).

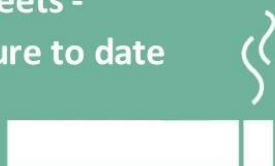
LEAMS can be seen as a measure of the four E's: **Effective cleansing**, the use of **Enforcement powers** and **actions to Educate and Engage with communities** to prevent issues which negatively impact on the quality of the local environment. However, Keep Wales Tidy recognises that a truly clean street is one that isn't littered in the first place and prevention and promoting positive and sustainable behaviour change is at the heart of everything we do.

# Headline Results

## HOW CLEAN ARE OUR STREETS 2018-19?

Keep Wales Tidy has been recording street cleanliness since 2007-08

Smoking-related litter  
recorded on  
**79.6%** of streets -  
the lowest figure to date



Dog fouling recorded on  
**8.8%** of streets -  
similar to  
last year's  
figure



All other litter types are similar to  
last year's figures:



Confectionery on  
**52.9%** of streets

Drinks on  
**43.0%** of streets



Fast food on  
**19.6%** of streets



More litter comes  
from pedestrians  
than from  
anywhere else -  
**88.6%** of streets



Domestic litter  
recorded on  
**64.9%** of streets

# An Overview of Local Environmental Quality Across Wales

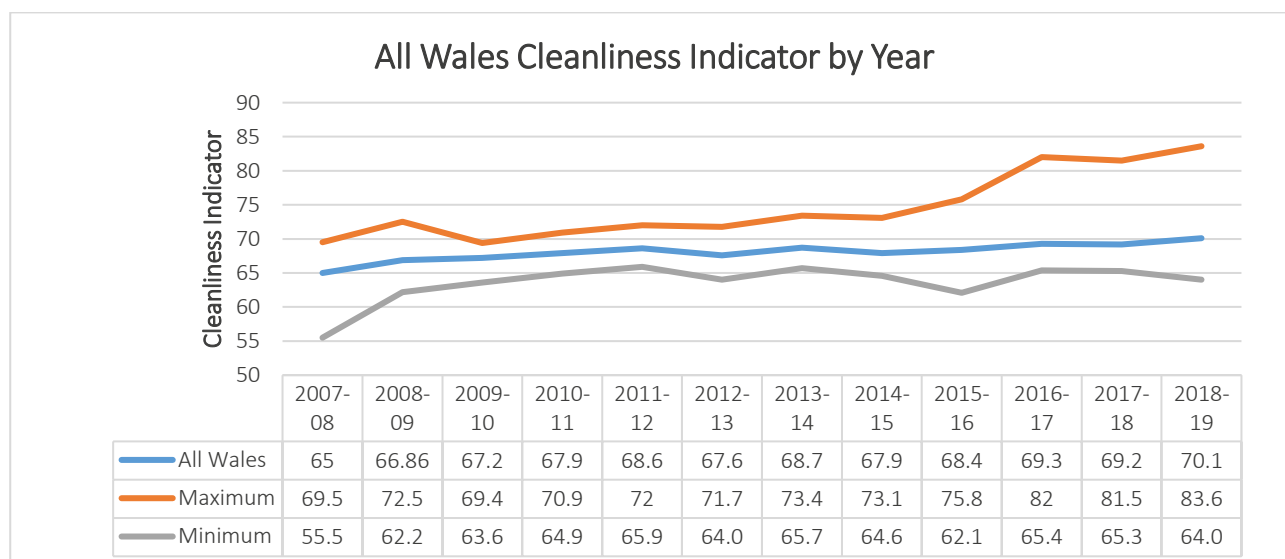
We are encouraged by the improvement seen in many issues included as part of our surveys this year, with some achieving their best results recorded to date. However, many everyday items such as those relating to smoking, eating and drinking continue to be commonly recorded on our streets. Not only does this litter spoil our enjoyment of our towns and countryside, but they pose a threat to our fragile environment and precious wildlife. There is still room for improvement and more work needs to be done, particularly to reduce the gap between the highest and lowest scoring authorities.

During 2018-19, on average 5.6% of Wales' streets were completely litter free. This is above last year's figure of 4.6% and is a significant improvement on the 2007-08 baseline survey, when only 1.3% of streets were free of litter.

## All Wales Cleanliness Indicator

The Cleanliness Indicator shows the cleanliness of an area, with higher figures indicating cleaner environments. **The All Wales Cleanliness Indicator score for 2018-19 is 70.1.** <sup>†</sup> This is an improvement on last year's level of 69.2, and is the highest figure recorded since Keep Wales Tidy began undertaking street cleanliness surveys across Wales in 2007-08.

**Figure 1: All Wales, Maximum and Minimum Cleanliness Indicator**



The general trend is that the All Wales, maximum (best scoring local authority) and minimum (lowest scoring local authority) scores have all increased, and therefore improved their standard of cleanliness over time. It is positive to see that, like the All Wales figure, the maximum score - currently at 83.6 - is also at its highest level calculated to date. This means that the best performing local authority is achieving a higher standard than ever. Unfortunately, the minimum score has

<sup>†</sup> [Appendix 4](#) shows how this is calculated.

dropped this year to 64.0, which is the lowest level in an individual local authority calculated since 2015-16. The gap between the highest and lowest scoring local authorities is currently bigger than ever before.

The All Wales score is closer to the minimum score because only a small number of local authorities have achieved the highest levels of cleanliness.

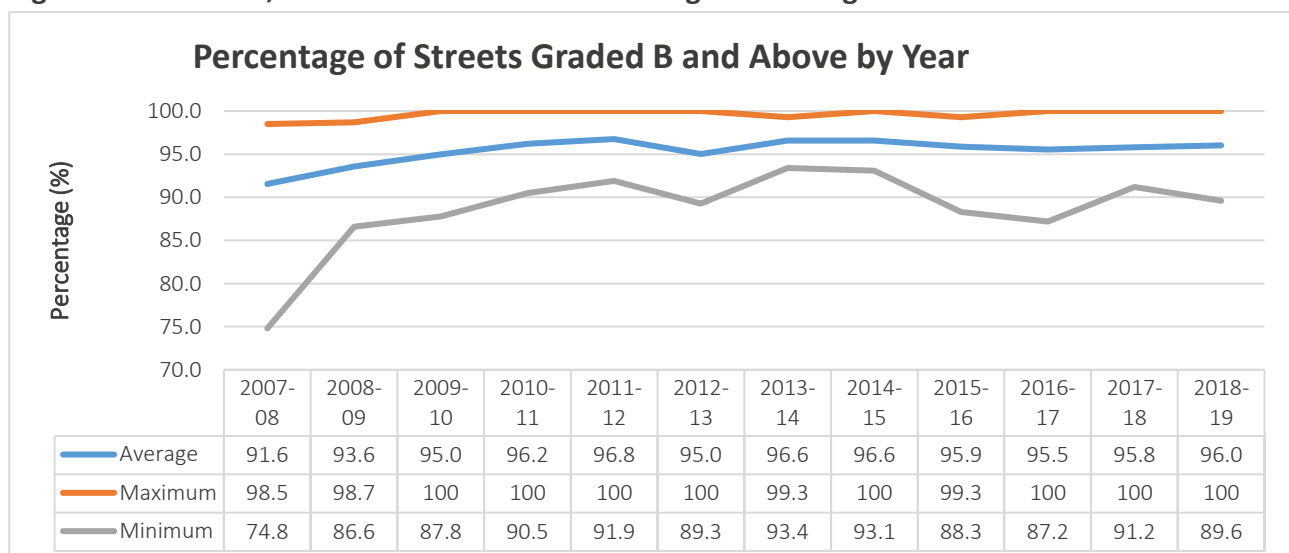
## Streets Reaching an Acceptable Standard of Cleanliness

Streets are graded as follows:



This year, the average percentage of streets graded B and above (that is streets considered by members of the public to have an acceptable level of cleanliness) was 96.0%. This figure has stayed at a similar level over the past few years. This means that there has been little change in the number of C and D grade streets which have been recorded on the whole across Wales.

**Figure 2: Maximum, Minimum and All Wales Average Percentage of Streets Graded B and Above**



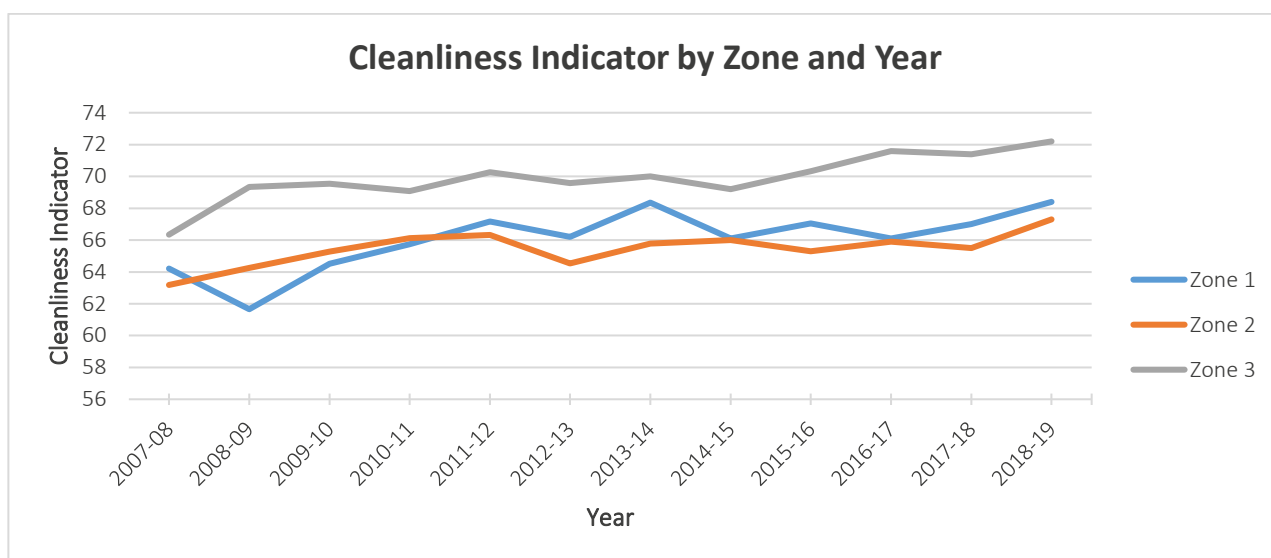
The maximum figure has remained at 100%, while the minimum figure has decreased to 89.6%. There is now therefore a larger gap between the lowest and highest figures.

## Cleanliness by Land Use

In our surveys, land use is defined as follows:

- Zone 1 - town centres, shopping centres and major transport centres
- Zone 2 - high density residential areas and busy recreational areas
- Zone 3 - low density residential areas and industrial estates

**Figure 3: Average Cleanliness Indicator by Zone**



It is positive that all zones have not only seen an overall increase over time but have also increased their CI scores this year to their highest levels calculated to date.

Zone 3 constantly out performs other zones and has reached a level of 72.2 this year.

Zone 2 streets has seen year-on-year improvements in cleanliness until 2011-12. The figure decreased the following year, and then saw only minor fluctuations until this year's increase to 67.3.

Zone 1 has seen the biggest fluctuations in cleanliness, but has increased to 68.4 this year.

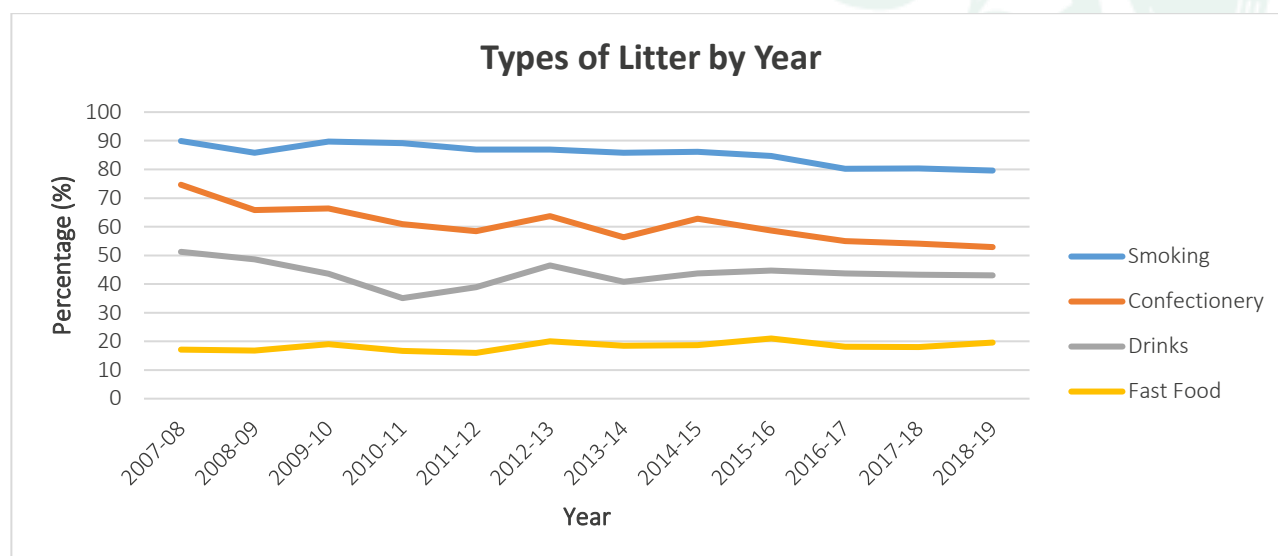
## Litter Types and Sources

During our surveys, we record all litter when grading for cleanliness, but take special note of the following types of litter:

- Smoking
- Drinks
- Confectionery
- Fast Food



**Figure 4: Average Percentage Presence of Litter Types**



Smoking-related litter (which consists primarily of cigarette ends, but includes all items relating to smoking) has been the most common type of litter present on the streets of Wales since our surveys began in 2007-08. It has, however, been gradually decreasing since 2009-10. The figure has levelled out during the three most recent surveys. It was present on 79.6% of streets this year, dropping below 80% for the first time.

Confectionery litter has seen a more significant decline over time. It was recorded on almost three quarters of Wales' streets during the baseline survey but by now has dropped to just over half (52.9%), which is the lowest figure recorded to date.

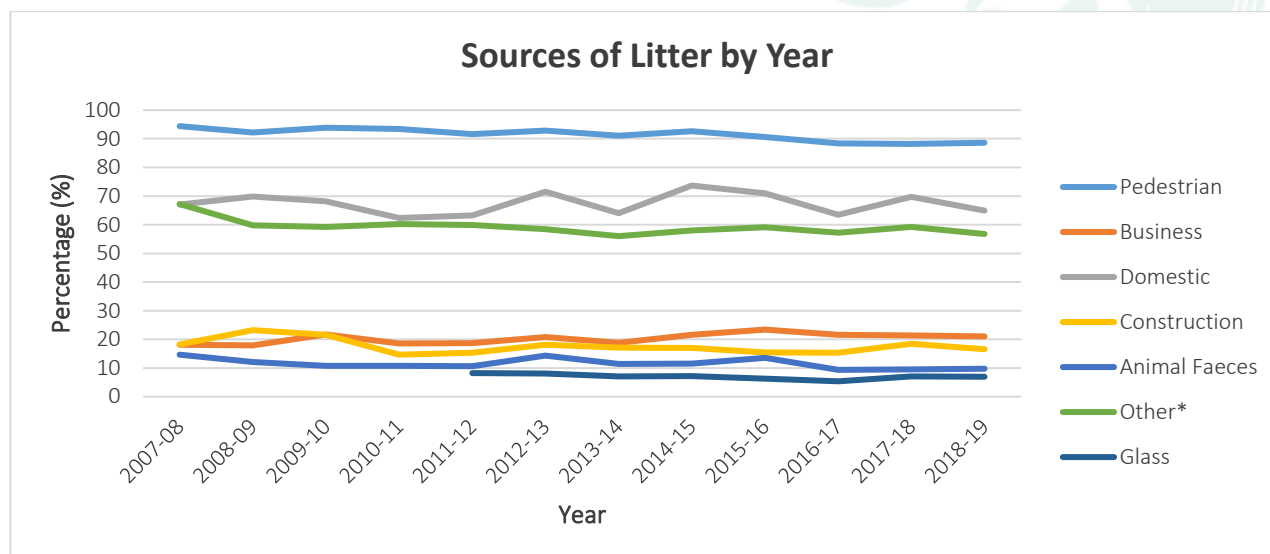
Having declined steadily until 2010-11, there has been little change in the presence of drinks litter since 2013-14 and it is still widespread, being present on 43.0% of streets this year.

Fast food is the least common litter type recorded each year. Unlike the other litter types, it has seen little change over time, with a figure of 19.6% recorded this year.

In the same way as we note types of litter, we also record the sources. The sources we collect information on are:

- Pedestrian
- Business
- Domestic
- Construction
- Animal Faeces
- Other
- Glass (since 2011-12)

**Figure 5: Average Percentage Presence of Litter Sources**



\* For 2016-17 the average figure is taken from the 19 local authorities where data was available.

Litter dropped by pedestrians has been by far the most common source of litter on Wales' streets since surveys began. Overall its presence has decreased gradually over time and has plateaued over recent years. A figure of 88.6% was recorded this year.

With the exception of 2007-08, domestic litter has been the second most widespread litter source. This can be litter from spilt refuse but also consists of household items such as cotton buds, wipes and tea bags. The figure has decreased this year, with the current level of 64.9% just below that recorded during the baseline survey. Other, unidentifiable litter has also been regularly observed, but after 2007-08, its presence has largely plateaued at around 60%. A figure of 56.8% was recorded this year, the second lowest recorded to date.

Business litter, which consists mainly of Post Office bands and cable ties, has remained on around one in five streets over the past ten years. This year it was recorded on 21.0% of streets. Construction litter, which also began at almost one in five streets, has gradually decreased in recent years. This litter, which includes bricks and rubble as well as small items like screws and wall plugs, has decreased slightly to 16.6% this year.

Animal faeces (predominantly dog fouling) was found on 9.7% of streets this year. This is similar to the level seen during the past two surveys. While glass is the least common litter, at 7.0%, it also has remained at a similar level to that recorded during last year's survey.

## Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators (AEQIs)

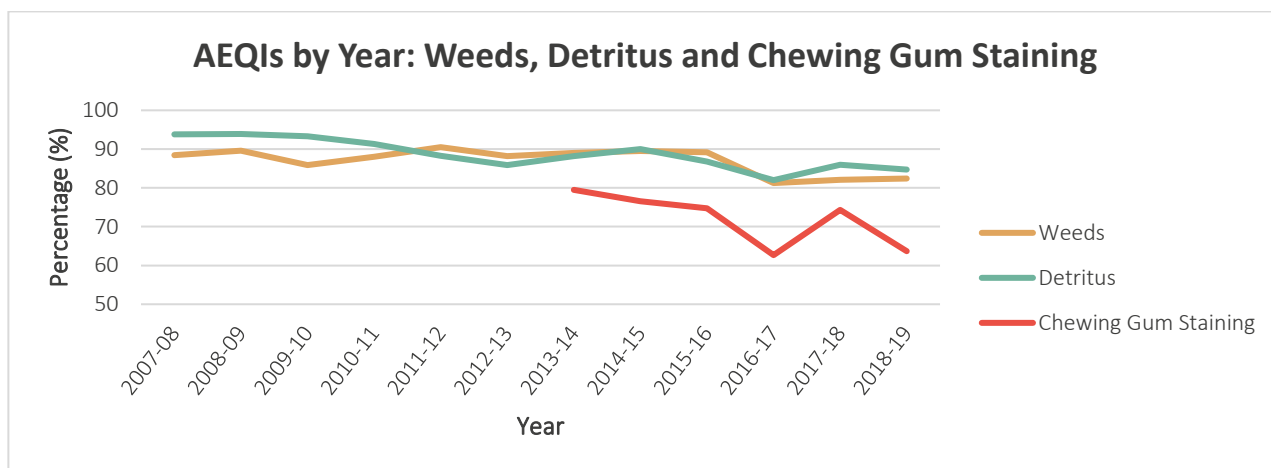
During the surveys, we collect information on the following AEQIs:

- Dog Fouling
- Graffiti
- Fly-posting
- Vandalism

- Weeds
- Detritus<sup>‡</sup>
- Chewing Gum Staining (since 2013-14)

Of these, only dog fouling affects the overall street cleanliness grade<sup>§</sup> and therefore the overall Cleanliness Indicator and the percentage of streets graded B and above.

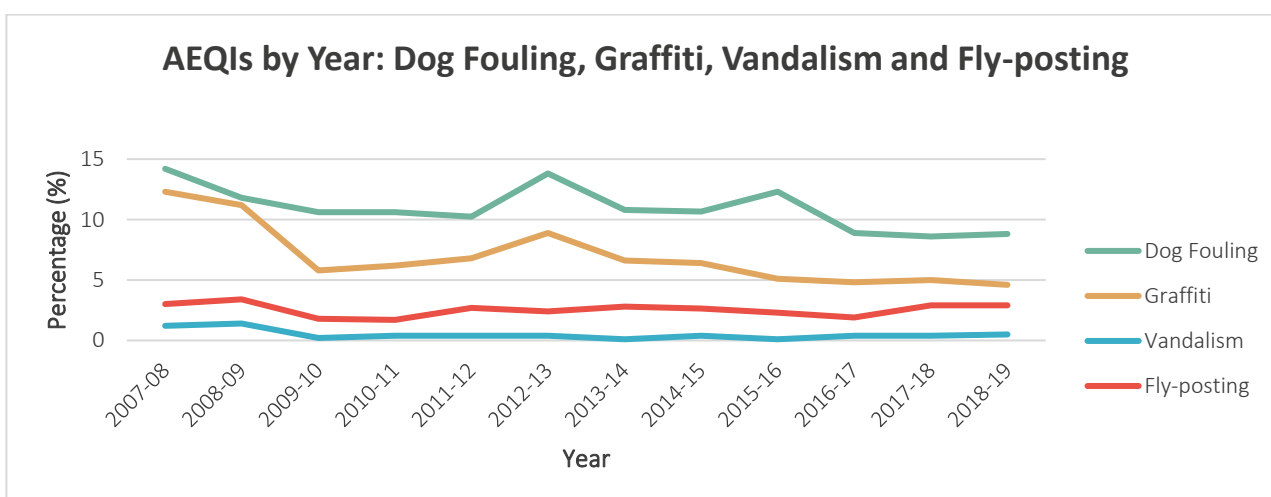
**Figure 6: Average Percentage Presence of Weeds, Detritus and Chewing Gum Staining**



Detritus and weeds have been the most common AEQIs found on the streets of Wales ever since 2007-08. Although they remain lower than their baseline levels, neither issue is yet to drop below 80%. Detritus decreased slightly to 84.7% this year, while at 82.4%, weeds were found on a similar level to that recorded last year.

The presence of chewing gum staining fell each year until 2016-17 and then increased in 2017-18. Its presence decreased to 63.7% this year, similar to that recorded two years ago.

**Figure 7: Average Percentage Presence of Dog Fouling, Graffiti, Vandalism and Fly-posting**



<sup>‡</sup> Natural material and broken-down organic matter.

<sup>§</sup> If dog fouling is present on a street it cannot score higher than a B grade. If there is a significant presence, the street will be downgraded to a C grade. If there is a severe presence, the street will be downgraded to a D grade.



Since 2007-08, when dog fouling was seen on almost 15% of streets, the issue has gradually improved, except for two smaller peaks in 2012-13 and 2015-16. However, it has levelled out since 2016-17, with a figure of 8.8% recorded this year.

Graffiti has plateaued since 2015-16. It is currently present on 4.6% of streets, which is the lowest figure recorded to date. Overall, fly-posting and vandalism are only seen occasionally. These issues have seen little change over recent years, with current figures of 2.9% for fly-posting and 0.5% for vandalism.

## Other Data and Environmental Indicators

In 2015-16, Keep Wales Tidy began collecting more information to help us better understand the issues affecting the quality of our local environment. These were land use and the litter issues of foam polystyrene and drinks receptacles.

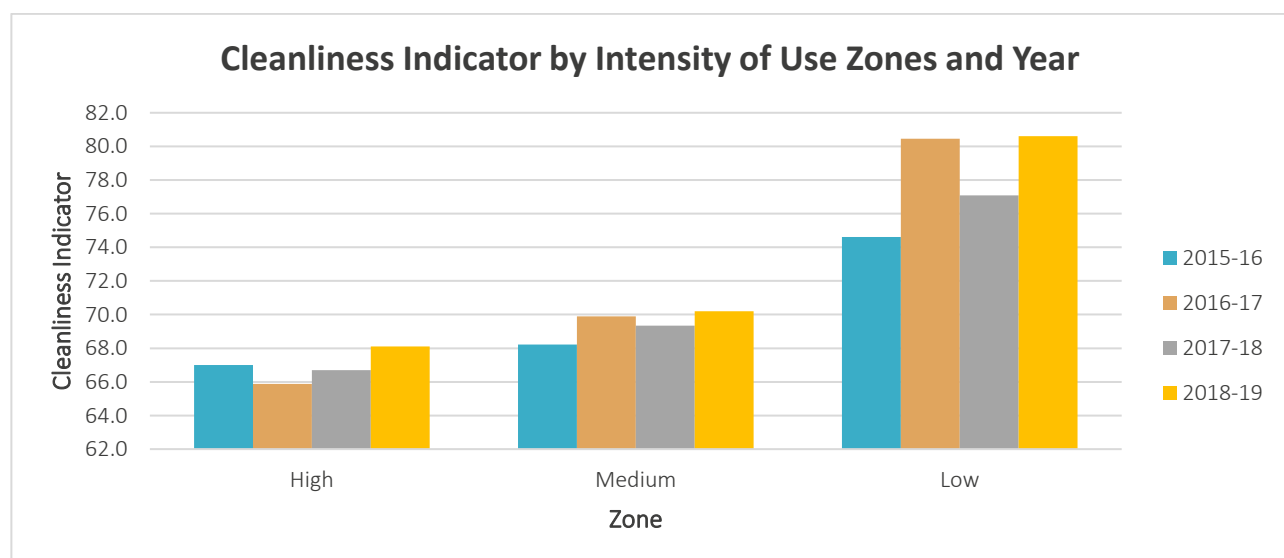
### A) Land Use

In addition to the zones already covered earlier in this report, we also classify streets according to levels of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. This helps differentiate cleanliness between urban and rural settings.

The categories \*\* are as follows:

- High Intensity of Use - busy public areas
- Medium Intensity of Use - primarily housing areas
- Low Intensity of Use - lightly trafficked areas (including rural roads)

**Figure 8: Average Cleanliness Indicator by Intensity of Use Zones**



\*\* This is the land use categorisation contained in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse and Associated Guidance 2007.

It is positive to see that the cleanliness of all three zones are currently at their highest levels calculated. Once again, busy public areas scored lowest in terms of cleanliness, with a figure of 68.1 recorded. Housing areas scored 70.2 this year, while less intensely used areas continue to be cleanest, achieving a figure of 80.6.

### B) Foam Polystyrene Litter

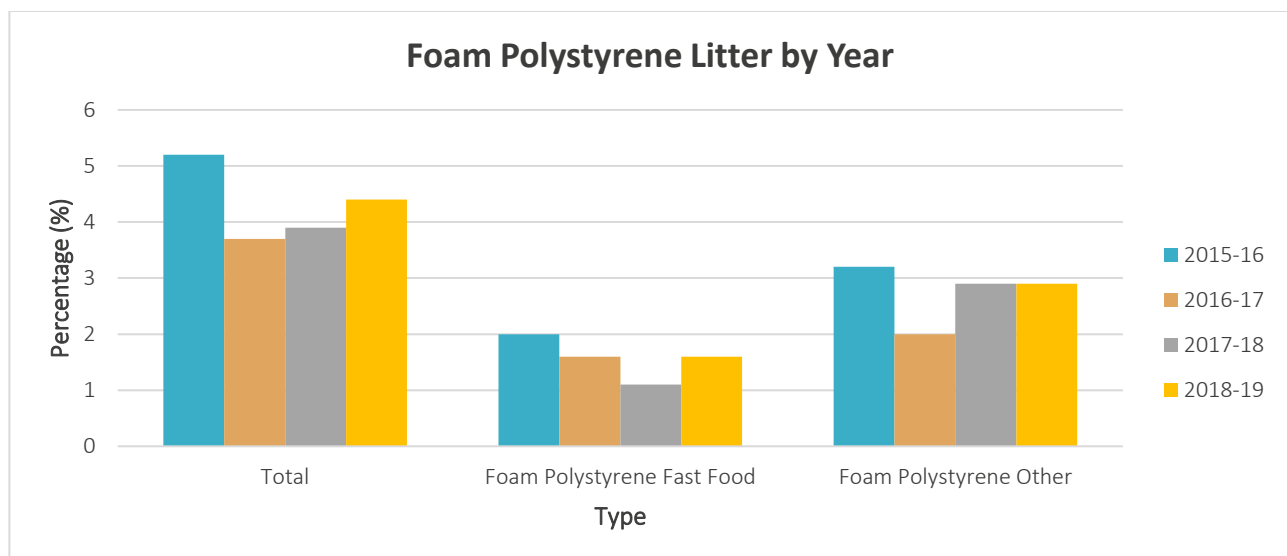
Foam polystyrene is primarily used for fast food packaging, packing material for fragile items inside boxes, and building insulation.

This material is problematic because it:

- is light and therefore easily transported by wind and water
- breaks up into small pieces making it difficult to clean
- stays in the environment for a very long time
- is not commonly recycled

During our surveys, this material is categorised into fast food items and other foam polystyrene litter.

**Figure 9: Percentage Presence of Foam Polystyrene Litter**



While remaining below its baseline figure, there has been a small increase in the presence of foam polystyrene litter this year. It was recorded on a total of 4.4% of streets. Once again, this consisted mostly of other polystyrene (such as fragile packaging items and insulation), which was recorded on 2.9% the streets and is equal to last year's figure. Polystyrene fast food (which includes items such as clam shells and foam fast food cups) increased to 1.6% this year.

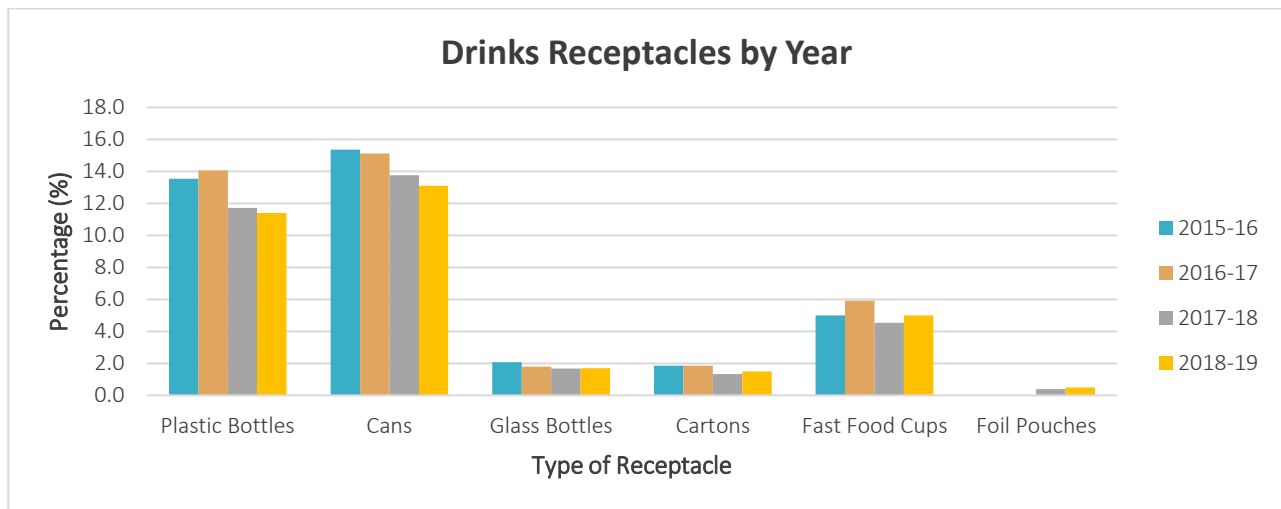
### C) Drinks Receptacles

Much of the litter that is found on our streets has a recyclable or reuse value. Keep Wales Tidy considers these items to be an unfortunate waste of resources.

We collect information on the following types of drinks receptacles:

- Plastic Bottles
- Cans (aluminium)
- Glass Bottles
- Cartons
- Fast Food Cups
- Foil Pouches (since 2017-18)

**Figure 10: Percentage Presence of Drinks Receptacles**



While remaining the most common drinks receptacles, both cans (13.1%) and plastic bottles (11.4%) have decreased this year to their lowest figures recorded to date. Fast food cups (5.0%) and cartons (1.5%) have both increased slightly this year, while the figure for glass bottles (1.7%) is equal to that recorded last year. Foil pouches (0.5%), the least common drinks receptacle recorded, remains at a similar level to last year's figure.



# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Survey Methodology

The methodology for the LEAMS surveys reflects the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse and Associated Guidance 2007, which relates to Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Each survey covers a 6% sample of streets, selected at random from a full list of adopted highways provided by each local authority. LEAMS assesses the quality of the local environment through a visual survey of a 50m length of one side of a street, by recording the below information.

### 1. Overall Cleanliness Grade

This is based on how much litter and dog fouling is present.



A transect with dog fouling present cannot score higher than a B grade, while a significant presence leads to a C grade and a severe presence to a D grade.

The overall cleanliness grade is used to calculate:

- The Cleanliness Indicator
- The percentage of streets graded B and above (which contributes towards the 'Environmental Services: Clean Streets' Public Accountability Measure)

### 2. Litter

We record whether the below are present or absent.

Types	Sources
Smoking	Pedestrian
Drinks	Business
Confectionery	Domestic
Fast Food	Construction
	Animal Faeces
	Other
	Glass

### 3. Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators (AEQIs)

The following issues are graded.

- Dog Fouling
- Vandalism
- Weeds
- Detritus
- Graffiti
- Fly-posting
- Chewing Gum Staining (since 2013-14)

### 4. Recent Additions

In 2015-16, we began collecting data on two additional litter indicators. These were:

- **Foam Polystyrene:**
  - Fast Food
  - Other
- **Drinks Receptacles:**
  - Plastic Bottles
  - Cans (aluminium)
  - Glass Bottles
  - Cartons
  - Fast Food Cups
  - Foil Pouches (since 2017-18)

A more detailed LEAMS methodology is available on our website:

[www.keepwalestidy.cymru/surveys](http://www.keepwalestidy.cymru/surveys)

## Appendix 2: Survey Dates 2018-19

Local Authority	Survey Dates
Anglesey	4, 20 June
Blaenau Gwent	14 June, 2, 4 July
Bridgend	4, 5, 10, 14, 20, 25 September
Caerphilly	26 September, 1, 11, 16 October, 8 November
Cardiff	4, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 23, 25 May
Carmarthenshire	11, 12, 13, 14 June
Ceredigion	27, 28, 29 June, 12 July
Conwy	9, 16, 24 July
Denbighshire	2, 3, 4, 5 July
Flintshire	13 August, 12 September, 3 October
Gwynedd	14, 21, 28 June, 2, 4, 24 July
Merthyr Tydfil	11, 12, 18 June
Monmouthshire	31 July and 17 August
Neath Port Talbot	30 November and 4, 5, 7, 10 December
Newport	29 October and 8, 9, 19, 21 November
Pembrokeshire	10, 11, 12 September
Powys	18, 20 June and 4, 5 July
Rhondda Cynon Taf	15, 18, 21, 24, 29 January, 8, 13 February
Swansea	18, 19, 22, 25, 26, 27 February, 6, 8 March
Torfaen	31 August, 17, 21, 24 September
Vale of Glamorgan	5, 9 October
Wrexham	3, 4, 5 September



### Appendix 3: Headline Local Authority Results 2018-19

Local Authority	Cleanliness Indicator Score	Percentage of Streets Graded B and Above
Anglesey	74.6	100
Blaenau Gwent	64.9	94.1
Bridgend	67.7	96.7
Caerphilly	68.2	97.9
Cardiff	67.3	96
Carmarthenshire	77.9	91.2
Ceredigion	83.6	97.8
Conwy	72.3	97.5
Denbighshire	74	98.7
Flintshire	70.6	95.8
Gwynedd	73.6	98.6
Merthyr Tydfil	66.3	95.5
Monmouthshire	67.4	95.8
Neath Port Talbot	65.9	93.8
Newport	64	89.6
Pembrokeshire	83.2	94.6
Powys	66.4	94.6
Rhondda Cynon Taf	66.7	97.6
Swansea	67.1	96.4
Torfaen	67.4	96.6
Vale of Glamorgan	69.4	96.1
Wrexham	70.0	97.4

## Appendix 4: How the Cleanliness Indicator is Calculated

The Cleanliness Indicator is calculated from the street cleanliness grades (A-D) and ranges from 0 to 100. Each grade carries a weighting.

$$\text{Cleanliness Indicator} = \frac{\text{Actual Score}}{\text{Maximum Score}} \times 100$$

Example of calculating the Cleanliness Indicator using a sample of 30 streets:

	Number of Streets Awarded that Grade	Weighting	Score
Grade A	2	3	6
Grade B+	3	2.5	7.5
Grade B	22	2	44
Grade C	2	1	2
Grade D	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>59.5</b>

Maximum Score: 30 (total number of streets) x 3 (grade A weighting) = 90

$$\text{Cleanliness Indicator} = \frac{59.5}{90} \times 100 = 66.1$$

If all streets are awarded a B grade (an acceptable level of cleanliness) the Cleanliness Indicator is 66.7.



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