

How Clean Are Our Streets?

All Wales Local Environmental Audit and Management System Report

2023-24



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government



cadwch keep
gymru'n wales
dachus tidy

HOW CLEAN ARE OUR STREETS 2023-24?

95.1%

of streets
graded B and
above



Cans and bottles

are at their highest
figure since 2015-16



Plastic bottles

found on
13.6% of
streets



5%

of streets had no litter (A grades)



Disposable vapes

found on 10.2%
of streets



Fast food packaging

found on 26.4% of
streets



Smoking litter

found on 70.8% - the lowest since surveys
began



Dog fouling

decreased to 6.5% - the lowest since surveys began



Summary

This report has been prepared by Keep Wales Tidy and outlines the findings from the Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) surveys undertaken across Wales since 2007-08*. Here, we focus on the 2023-24 results, and provide comparisons against surveys undertaken since 2007-08**. The funding for LEAMS surveys has been provided by Welsh Government.

Each survey covers a 6% sample of streets in every local authority. The streets are selected at random from a full list of adopted highways provided by each authority, and the LEAMS survey assesses the quality of the local environment through a visual survey over a 50m transect on each street. The methodology for LEAMS surveys can be found [here](#). This year, **3,161** streets were surveyed between April 2023 and January 2024. The results represent **streets alone** and do not extend to parks, green spaces, beaches or busy roads.

Each street is awarded a grade for cleanliness based on litter and dog fouling (as shown below). Those streets that are graded B and above (A, B+ and B) are deemed to be at an acceptable standard of cleanliness as defined by the Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse (COPLAR) 2007. This year, **95.1% of streets across Wales were graded B or above**. This has remained relatively consistent throughout time, varying between 95.0 - 96.0% since 2013-14.



The street grades are used to calculate the Cleanliness Indicator (CI) score. Each grade (A-D) carries a different weighting (3-0) to calculate a score between 0 and 100 for each local authority and for Wales overall (the All Wales CI). A higher CI means the streets are cleaner. For 2023-24, **the All Wales Cleanliness Indicator is 69.4**, which is slightly higher than last year.

We collect data on several litter categories and every year we calculate the percentage of streets across Wales with each litter category. **The All Wales results for 2023-24 are summarised below.**

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no LEAMS surveys took place in 2020-21, and the 2019-20 survey results outlined in this report are taken from the LEAMS surveys completed in 21 out of 22 local authorities in Wales.

**Keep Wales Tidy have undertaken a data review where minor errors were picked up in the existing All Wales dataset. These errors have since been corrected and the changes will be reflected in this report.

The results from these surveys are used to provide independent data for the Public Accountability Measure for Clean Streets (PAM/010: Percentage of streets that are at an acceptable level of cleanliness) for Data Cymru.

Also, our datasets are useful to Welsh Government as they provide evidence and support new policy, and for the implementation of schemes such as a [Deposit Return Scheme](#) (DRS) and [Extended Producer Responsibility](#) (EPR) for litter payments. Recently, our data has supported the [ban of single-use plastics](#) in Wales and the upcoming [ban on disposable vapes](#) across the UK.

The data can also be used by local authorities to make informed decisions in areas of concern and to design local interventions, and by other organisations who are interested in local environmental quality.



<p>Litter types include smoking-related, drinks-related, confectionery and fast-food litter. Despite figures ranging from year to year, smoking and confectionery litter are now at their lowest figures since surveys began, whereas fast food litter is at its highest.</p>	<p>Litter Types</p>	<p>Smoking Drinks Alcoholic Drinks Confectionery Fast Food</p>	<p>70.8% 43.6% 15.9% 43.8% 26.4%</p>
<p>Litter sources include pedestrian, business, domestic, construction, animal faeces, glass and other unidentifiable litter. Pedestrian-dropped litter has always been the most common, but it has been declining through time and this year, it is at its lowest figure since surveys began. Glass and other identifiable litter are at their highest figures, with glass increasing 5 percentage points from last year.</p>	<p>Litter Sources</p>	<p>Pedestrian Business Domestic Construction Animal Faeces Other Glass Food and Drinks Packaging</p>	<p>82.6% 22.2% 64.5% 20.6% 8.1% 69.3% 16.8% 64.8%</p>
<p>Aside from litter, we also look for Adverse Environmental Quality Indicators (AEQIs) that often create negative impressions and have social and economic impacts on an area. These include dog fouling, graffiti, vandalism, fly-posting, weeds and detritus. This year, dog fouling is at its lowest figure since surveys began, whereas fly-posting is at its highest.</p>	<p>AEQIs</p>	<p>Dog Fouling Graffiti Vandalism Fly-posting Weeds Detritus</p>	<p>6.5% 7.2% 0.5% 5.5% 90.0% 88.5%</p>

Every year, we revise our single use and miscellaneous categories according to any emerging issues or research interests. This year, we collected information on **drinks receptacles** (e.g. plastic bottles and cans), **single use items** (e.g. disposable vapes and wet wipes) and **food packaging** items.

Drinks Receptacles	Plastic Bottles	13.6%
	Cans	18.1%
	Glass Bottles	5.2%
	Cartons	1.1%
	Fast Food Cups	7.5%
Single Use or Miscellaneous	Vapes	10.2%
	Wet Wipes	10.7%
	Batteries	1.4%
	Textiles	4.3%
	Polystyrene Fast Food	1.2%
	Polystyrene Other	3.6%
	Elastic Bands	9.0%
Packaging (EPR)	Takeaway	21.6%
	Sandwich or Wrap	2.0%
	Sweets or Chocolate	37.9%
	Single Portion	5.9%
	Crisps	5.3%



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