



Skipton House  
80 London Road  
London  
SE1 6LH

**Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP**

Chairman  
Environmental Audit Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

18 September 2020

Dear Mr Dunne,

Thank you for your recent letter on single use plastics and disposal of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Public Health England (PHE) issued ['Infection Prevention and Control' \(IPC\)](#) and within the guidance it advises NHS Trusts on appropriate PPE disposal.

Data on waste disposal by the NHS is collected annually through the [Estates Return Information Collection \(ERIC\)](#). Owing to changes in the definitions on the data collected, it is not possible to compare data over the last five years. Annex A comprises the latest available figures.

Building on international approaches, the UK government has brought together technical experts from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the NHS, and devolved administrations, to review the available evidence and to undertake testing on the scientific feasibility of reusing disposable or single-use PPE.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth May  
Chief Nursing Officer for England



## **Annex A – Estates Return Information Collection (ERIC) Waste data**

### **2016/17**

<b>Waste type</b>	<b>2016/17 (Tonnes)</b>
Landfill disposal volume	88,594
Incineration disposal volume	148,424
Waste recycling volume	137,442
Other recovery volume	216,495
<b>Total</b>	<b>590,955</b>

### **2017/18**

<b>Waste type</b>	<b>2017/18 (Tonnes)</b>
Landfill disposal volume	58,152
Incineration disposal volume	74,730
Waste recycling volume	107,848
Other recovery volume	183,502
<b>Total</b>	<b>424,233</b>

### **2018/19**

<b>Waste type</b>	<b>2018/19 (Tonnes)</b>
Incineration (clinical waste)	74,363
Alternative Treatment (clinical waste)	122,648
Offensive waste	36,753
Clinical waste processed on site	556
Domestic waste (landfill)	47,237
Domestic waste (recycling)	127,848
Domestic waste (food)	14,015
Domestic waste (textiles)	184
Domestic waste (incineration)	94,610
Domestic waste processed on site	3,692
WEEE waste	16,693
<b>Total</b>	<b>538,597</b>