

# THE DAILY MAIL

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Your ref 131881

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your further letter of 20 May regarding the complaint from Peter Jones.

As the article sets out, DEFRA accepts that even they do not know what happens to the 12 million tonnes of rubbish which is sent abroad.

What is clear, however, is that this is an area of considerable concern to them which is why they have set up a specialist crime unit to try and curb illegal activities.

Against this background, there is no way that Mr Jones can say with any certainty that 'only a small proportion ends up in landfill' and it does not seem unreasonable to make the claim as the article does that 'Millions of tons of household rubbish... is being dumped abroad'. Indeed, the two claims are not even mutually exclusive.

Notwithstanding the above, we have already accepted that the headline of the online article – which makes a claim not included in the print version – is incorrect and have offered to amend this and record the change.

With regard to the claim that councils are increasingly using contractors, our article does not say that this is anything new and it is not clear that this can be a significant inaccuracy. It is my understanding that councils are outsourcing more and more in common with many businesses, but if Mr Jones has specific information to the contrary I would certainly be happy to give this further consideration.

The claim that processors reject most recyclable material was made in a DEFRA report which we covered in February. DEFRA's own survey found that 60 per cent of reprocessing managers say that only 'some' or 'hardly any' of the material they are sent by materials recovery facilities is good enough to use.

As a general point, I would also reiterate that neither this article nor our February article have been subject to any complaint from DEFRA who were fully consulted in advance of publication.

Nevertheless, please let me know if you require any further information from me.

Yours sincerely, ✓

[REDACTED]

Group Managing Editor