

MDA No.: 1900

Title: London's fly-tipping problem

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 At the Environment Committee meeting on 15 July 2026, the Committee resolved that:

Authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the party Group Lead Members, to agree any output arising from the discussion.

- 1.2 Following consultation with party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed the Committee's letter to the Minister of State (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) on *Fly-tipping and illegal dumping: Funding for clearing up contaminated land*, as attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Decision

- 2.1 **That the Chair, in consultation with the party Group Lead Members, agrees the letter to the Minister of State (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) on *Fly-tipping and illegal dumping: Funding for clearing up contaminated land*, as attached at Appendix 1.**

Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Printed Name: Gareth Roberts AM, Chair of the Environment Committee

Date: 16 September 2026

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 The terms of reference for this investigation were agreed by the Chair, in consultation with relevant party Group Lead Members under the standing authority granted to Chairs of Committees and Sub-Committees. Officers confirm that the letter and its recommendations fall within these terms of reference.
- 3.2 The exercise of delegated authority approving the letter will be formally noted at the Environment Committee's next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): *Hannah Barlow*

Printed Name: Hannah Barlow, Principal Committee Manager

Date: 16 September 2026

Financial Implications: NOT REQUIRED

Note: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.

Signature (Finance): Not Required

Printed Name:

Date:

Legal Implications:

The Chair of the Environment Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal): 

Printed Name: Rory McKenna

Date: 16 September 2026

Email: MonitoringOfficer@london.gov.uk

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Leonie Cooper AM;
- Thomas Turrell AM;
- Zack Polanski AM; and
- Keith Prince AM.

4. Public Access to Information

- 4.1 Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.
- 4.2 If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.
- 4.3 **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 - Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If yes, until what date:

Part 2 – Sensitive Information:

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form? NO

Lead Officer / Author

Signature: *Richard Clarke*

Printed Name: Richard Clarke

Job Title: Senior Policy Adviser

Date: 15 September 2026

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature: *Helen Ewen*

Printed Name: Helen Ewen, Executive Director – Assembly Secretariat

Date: 16 September 2026

LONDON ASSEMBLY

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Gareth Roberts AM **Chair of the Environment Committee**

Emma Hardy MP,
Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

(Sent by email)

17 September 2026

Fly-tipping and illegal dumping: Funding for clearing up contaminated land

Dear Emma,

The London Assembly Environment Committee is undertaking an investigation into fly-tipping in London.¹ The Committee held its first meeting on 15 July 2026 in which we heard from representatives of community groups, waste experts and the Environment Agency.

In that meeting, we heard about the challenges around remediation of illegal waste dumping sites and the support needed across the sector. Guests from the Environment Agency made it clear to us that while they monitor the environmental impacts of illegal dumping and provide advice to local authorities, they have “no resources to remediate the sites”, except where Defra gives them direction to do so.²

Funding for remediation of contaminated land

National support can make a real difference in accelerating action to address the most harmful environmental impacts of illegal dumping. Already this year, the Government has made welcome announcements around waste crime. These included the Environment Agency stepping in to remediate several illegal dumping sites.³ However, these have so far been one-off announcements, and it is unclear whether further resources will be available. None of the sites selected for remediation so far are in London.

¹ London Assembly Environment Committee [London's fly-tipping problem](#)

² Barry Russell (Regulated Industry Environment Manager, Environment Agency) London Assembly, [Environment Committee 15.07.2026 - Panel Two](#) p15

³ The Government announced three sites at the launch of the [Waste Crime Action Plan in March 2026](#). Subsequently, in August 2026, the Government [announced further support](#) for clearing up three more of the country's most serious illegal waste sites

Illegal dumping causes significant environmental issues, including visual blight and poor air quality. These can have significant impacts on local communities. In London, for example, there is a long-running issue at Launders Lane in Havering where fires on a site blighted by illegal dumping have been causing significant environmental and health impacts.⁴

In the past, funding was available from Government to help with these costs. As you will be aware, until 2017 Defra previously operated the Contaminated Land Capital Grants scheme which helped local authorities remediate contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.⁵ Since this was abolished, the burden of clearing sites has fallen entirely to local Councils where the landowner cannot be identified or fails to take action.

We note the Waste Crime Action Plan, launched in March 2026, includes other work on remediation measures, such as work on a landfill tax rebate scheme and work with the insurance industry.⁶ We also agree that a key priority must be stopping illegal waste sites early before damage is done and prosecuting those responsible. However, for existing cases, it is important that further Government funding is available to support the urgent remediation of the most serious sites, with costs to be recouped from those responsible for causing it wherever possible.

We therefore request that in addition to the actions listed in the Waste Crime Action Plan an ongoing programme of funding – which could be allocated to local authorities or the Environment Agency - is available to support the clear up of contaminated land caused by illegal dumping.

The Committee would welcome a response to this letter by Friday 30 October 2026. Please send your response by email to the Committee's Clerk, Hannah Barlow (Hannah.Barlow@london.gov.uk).

Yours,



Gareth Roberts AM
Chair of the Environment Committee

⁴ MQ 2025/1070 [Launders' Lane](#)

⁵ National Data Library [Contaminated Land Grants issued to Local Authorities](#)

⁶ UK Government [Waste Crime Action Plan](#) March 2026