

Keep Scotland Beautiful

1: Methodology

LEAMS relies on a combination of monitoring carried out by local authorities and by KSB. Two LEAMS surveys are conducted by every local authority each financial year, with KSB conducting a third survey to act as an independent check. Each survey assesses a minimum 5% of streets in a local authority that have been selected at random.



Audits are also divided into land use types (zones, with a 5% sample of each relevant type audited.

LEAMS assesses sites in:

Zone 1: town centre

Zone 2: high-density residential

Zone 3: low-density residential

Zone 4: roads not falling into zones 1-3

Zone 6: motorways and strategic routes

Zone 7: rural roads

Data is recorded along transects⁴ at each audit site⁵, covering the pavement and roadside gutter, including any areas of grass between pavement and gutter. Transects are carried out on both sides of a street to give a representative view of the street and reduce anomalies in litter levels recorded. Along road networks, both verges and the road are included in the audit.

Auditors record information on the presence, types and sources of litter, local environmental quality, servicing and coverage of litter bins.

A subjective perception rating for litter presence is also taken for the site and, separately, if there are any open spaces nearby. This provides a rounded set of litter standard results for each site audited.

What counts as litter?

The following **types of litter** are recorded:

- **Dog fouling:** including those that have been bagged
- **Smoking-related:** including cigarette ends, matches, matchboxes, cigarette packaging
- **Drinks-related:** including cans, bottles, cups, straws and lid
- **Confectionery:** including sweet wrappers, chewing gum wrappers and crisp packets
- **Fast food-related:** including fish & chip wrappers, polystyrene cartons, burger wrappers, plastic cutlery
- **Royal Mail elastic bands**
- **Other:** any litter not covered by the above, such as newspaper and pieces of plastic

The following **sources of litter** are recorded:

- **Pedestrian waste:** including drinks cans, confectionary wrappers, fast food packaging, cigarette butts.
- **Business waste:** any waste that has come directly from a business.
- **Domestic waste:** for example household packaging
- **Construction waste:** such as sand bags, builders' rubble.
- **Animal faeces:** this covers any type of animal faeces.

⁴ A path along which one counts and records occurrences of the phenomena of study (e.g. litter).

⁵ Location within the selected street/road where transect(s) are assessed.

Measuring other **local environmental quality**, litter can be symptomatic of the general quality of the local environment. The following indicators are assessed at each site.

Sweeping Indicators:

- **Weeds:** the presence of weeds may indicate poor/infrequent street sweeping and can trap litter
- **Detritus:** debris from natural sources such as twigs, leaves, grass and sand. Such detritus can trap litter

Anti-social behaviour indicators:

- **Vandalism:** defined as wilful and senseless damage of property which adversely affects the quality of life and the environment, for example smashed bus shelter windows, broken street seating
- **Graffiti:** defined as unauthorised drawing or writing on surrounding buildings or street furniture such as benches, lamp posts and litter bins
- **Fly-posting:** defined as stickers or posters placed in unauthorised places and not on billboards. Unauthorised places refers to buildings, bus shelters, fence posts and so on within the site
- **Flytipping:** defined as illegally dumped waste

Pavement condition indicators:

- **Staining:** defined as a substance or material that has marked or changed the surface, not easily removed

Litter bins

At each site audited, a count of litter bins available for the public to use is recorded. Each litter bin is assessed for servicing, whether the bin is overflowing or not. An overflowing bin is deemed to be over three quarters full.

Grading

Each area of study (site) is graded according to the standards outlined in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006, which relates to Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990. An additional grade not defined within the code (B+) has been included for reporting quality.

There are five grades of cleanliness, which are defined as:

Grade A	No litter or refuse
Grade B+	Predominantly free of litter and refuse – up to three small items
Grade B	Predominantly free of litter and refuse
Grade C	Widespread distribution of litter and refuse with minor accumulations
Grade D	Heavily littered with significant accumulations

This grading system is based on research into standards of cleanliness which most people regard as being acceptable or unacceptable. Under this system, grades C and D are unacceptable and must be cleaned (in most cases to grade A condition) within a specified time. Grade A is the standard which a thorough conventional sweeping/litter-picking should achieve. The overall aim, however, should be to operate a management system where acceptable standards of cleanliness (grades A, B+ and B) are maintained at all relevant times.

Litter types, sources and local environmental quality are graded similar to the Code of Practice definitions, using a four classification system based on presence.

- 1 = no presence
 - 2 = small presence
 - 3 = significant presence
 - 4 = severe presence
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2: Measuring results

Performance Indicator Score

The National Benchmarking Overview Report published by the Improvement Service⁶ presents information on how much local authorities spend on services, performance of the service and how satisfied people are with the service provided. LEAMS has been adopted as the measure for street cleansing performance. The three indicators for street cleansing are;

- Street Cleanliness Score (% streets at an acceptable A or B grade standard from LEAMS assessments)
- Net cost of street cleaning per 1,000 population (£)
- Percentage of adults satisfied with waste collection and street cleaning

The Street Cleanliness Score is the percentage of streets audited achieving an acceptable standard for litter presence; ***(count of sites achieving an A, B+, B grade standard / overall count of sites) x 100***

Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006 - Litter cleanliness grade classifications.

Acceptable

	
Grade A – no litter or refuse	Grade B+ ⁷ / Grade B – predominately free from litter and refuse
Unacceptable	
	
Grade C – consistent litter and/or minor accumulations	Grade D – heavy litter presence and/or major accumulations

⁶ www.improvementservice.org.uk

⁷ Not defined within the Code, added to improve reporting quality

Benchmarking is also refined into comparable benchmarking clubs for sharing best practice.

Table 1e. Benchmarking Clubs

LOCAL AUTHORITY FAMILY GROUPS			
Club 1	Club 2	Club 3	Club 4
Aberdeenshire	East Ayrshire	Angus	Aberdeen City
Argyll and Bute	East Lothian	Clackmannanshire	Dundee City
Dumfries and Galloway	Fife	East Renfrewshire	East Dunbartonshire
The Highland	The Moray	Inverclyde	City of Edinburgh
Orkney Islands	North Ayrshire	Midlothian	Falkirk
Scottish Borders	Perth and Kinross	Renfrewshire	Glasgow City
Shetland Islands	South Ayrshire	South Lanarkshire	North Lanarkshire
Western Isles	Stirling	West Lothian	West Dunbartonshire