

Ms. Mary MaGuire
Senior Executive Officer
Environment, Water & Climate Change
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Environment Water & Climate Change

13 JUN 2016

1 June 2016

Re: Motion before the Environment Public Realm and Climate Change Strategic Policy Committee on bin locks namely “ that this Council, noting the high levels of litter resultant from green, brown and black bins blowing over in windy conditions, seeks to enforce a requirement for all companies involved in bin collection to provide devices or mechanisms to keep bins closed even in the case of falling, and for such a requirement to be implemented via the Environment SPC” (the Motion).

Dear Ms. MaGuire

Many thanks for your letter dated 26 May and for giving Nurendale (“Panda”) an opportunity to respond to the Motion.

Firstly, we note that the Motion refers to the “high levels of litter resultant from green, brown and black bins blowing over in windy conditions” and Panda does not accept that there is any evidence (anecdotal or empirical) to support this assumption. The reality is that we get approximately 5 such complaints per year from 150,000 customers and only on severely windy days.

In any event, Panda has concerns the Motion should not be passed on the basis of practical implications & additional consumer costs.

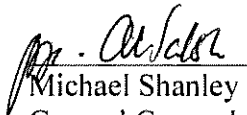
We have yet to see a bin lid securing mechanism fit for purpose that suits all bins and doesn't interfere with the bin emptying process and/or the bin washing process. There is the additional concern that bins fitted with gravity locks cannot be opened for inspection prior to emptying, so there could be any and all contamination in the bin and the operator has to empty it, sight unseen.

Apart from the cost of supplying and fitting a securing mechanism (upwards of €60 for the service call alone, plus the price of the device - a gravity lock is around €50) there is a significant ongoing operational cost to removing the lid securing device on every one of 1,000 wheelie bins emptied by a truck every day. If a customer has such a device they will use it every time they present their bin, whether it is a windy day or not. If it takes just 5 seconds per bin that's an additional hour and a half for every route.

Given such costs this would cause an additional burden on the customer who ultimately would have to pick up the bill for the locking mechanisms and the operator's time to unlock each one. In short, this would be an additional utility charge to already hard pressed consumers.

We feel that the real litter issue from bins is hooligans tipping bins and no clamp or strap which the helper is meant to remove will stand up to that sort hooligan behaviour.

Yours sincerely,



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