

Trade Waste Collection War

Trading Standards Officers in Staffordshire are asking businesses to be on their guard against hard sell tactics of some commercial waste collection companies.

Businesses are legally required to have a waste disposal contract for the collection and disposal of their business waste. Normal practice is for such contracts to be 12 months in duration. Officers have received complaints about some contractors that try to poach accounts from rival companies by signing up businesses whilst their existing waste disposal contracts have several months left to run.

The result is that businesses inadvertently find themselves legally tied-in to two waste collection contractors – something which many businesses can ill-afford to do.

Officers advise businesses considering switching to a new waste collection contractor to -

1. check the terms of their existing contract prior to signing any new one,
2. ensure that their existing contract is cancelled in accordance with the terms of that contract – they should not rely on the new contractor to do this on their behalf, and
3. ensure that new contract does not commence until the conclusion of the existing one.

Businesses should report any instances of unscrupulous practices to their local Trading Standards office.

All our alerts are available in a range of formats and languages, including large print. Please contact Nicola Wilson if this would be helpful to you, or to someone you know.

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