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Level of Cleanliness - Litter

This measure is based on a national methodology to assess the cleanliness of streets and the public realm relating to litter. Surveys of a sample of areas are carried out monthly across the borough. Results of all the surveys will be combined to get the annual result. Areas are scored against a national benchmark of cleanliness levels for litter, and the measure is expressed as the percentage of areas surveyed which meet or exceed the cleanliness standard. Expressed as a percentage of streets that are acceptably clean.

Litter and refuse grades – Highway and hard surfaces

	
Grade A No litter or refuse	Grade B Predominately free of litter and refuse apart from some small items
	
Grade C Widespread distribution of litter and/or refuse with minor accumulations	Grade D Heavily affected by litter and/or refuse with significant accumulations

✓ Acceptable

✗ Unacceptable

Litter and refuse grades – Parks & Open Spaces

	
Grade A No litter or refuse	Grade B Predominately free of litter and refuse apart from some small items
	
Grade C Widespread distribution of litter and/or refuse with minor accumulations	Grade D Heavily affected by litter and/or refuse with significant accumulations

✓ Acceptable

✗ Unacceptable



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Formula Guidance

Our Strategic Measure reports LITTER only. However, we do measure other cleanliness indicators based on the Ex NI195 Cleanliness Indicator for Litter, Detritus, Graffiti, Fly-posting.

Litter

There is no statutory definition of litter. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (s.87) states that litter is ‘anything that is dropped, thrown, left or deposited that causes defacement, in a public place’. This accords with the popular interpretation that ‘litter is waste in the wrong place’.

However, local authority cleansing officers and their contractors have developed a common understanding of the term and the definition used for NI 195 (and for the LEQSE) is based on this industry norm.

Litter includes mainly synthetic materials, often associated with smoking, eating and drinking, that are *improperly* discarded and left by members of the public; or are spilt during waste management operations.

Measurement

- Grade A is given when the local environment is completely free from litter, graffiti, flyposting and detritus;
Grades B-D is given when the local environment has varying degrees of a single or multiple elements.
- Grade B is given when some litter / graffiti / flyposting / detritus is present, but it is minor in nature and it is likely that many people would not notice its presence.
- Grade C is given when litter / graffiti / flyposting / detritus is present on the local environment to the extent that it is likely to be clearly visible to people using the area, and visible at a distance from at least one end of a 50m transect;
- Grade D is given when fly-posting is extensive throughout much of the local environment and is clearly visible and obtrusive to people passing through the street scene, and visible from any point on a 50m transect.

How To Measure

Number of transects inspected / number of transects graded A or B for litter. Expressed as a percentage.

Grade A and Grade B are considered ‘acceptably clean’.

For example, where 80 sites have been inspected and 70 sites have graded either A or B the calculation would give: $(80/70) * 100 = 85.5\%$

Procedure:

1. LBTH put together an annual schedule of wards that will be inspected on a monthly basis

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2. LBTH put together a monthly schedule of transects to be inspected
 1. Schedule to inspect 5 wards per month
 2. Schedule to incorporate approximately 16 transects per ward
 3. Schedule to incorporate surveying of all land uses that exist across LBTH
 3. LBTH send organisation undertaking survey (Preceptor) excel sheet, consisting of list of transects to be inspected broken down by ward, land use.
 4. LBTH send organisation undertaking survey Defra guidance on how to grade street cleanliness. To resend on a monthly basis when required.
 5. Organisation undertaking will use a print-out list / hand held devices to record the grade of each transect list provided by LBTH. Organisation will use the survey specification, to assess the level of cleanliness for each transect. Grades are A, B, C or D, with A being the cleanest and D being the least clean.
 6. The organisation will digitally photograph the transect and save the image with the location name.
 7. The organisation will save the results of the inspections (incorporating date, inspector and date) in addition to the digital photographs and send to LBTH electronically or by hand via USB.
 8. Training from LBTH can be provided for points 4-7
 9. LBTH receives information in the form of an excel spreadsheet. The project manager randomly checks 10 - 25% of the images against the guidance to check that the grading is being applied correctly.
 10. Project manager calculates the total number of clean transects/ street
 11. Calculation based on total transects clean (A or B) divided by total number of transects inspected * 100 to produce a monthly %
- Points 3-11 are repeated on a monthly basis

Detritus

There is no statutory definition of detritus, however, local authority cleansing officers and their contractors have developed a common understanding of the term and the definition used for the NI 195 (and for the LEQSE) is based on this industry norm.

Detritus comprises dust, mud, soil, grit, gravel, stones, rotted leaf and vegetable residues, and fragments of twigs, glass, plastic and other finely divided materials. Detritus includes leaf and blossom falls when they have substantially lost their structure and have become mushy or fragmented.

Graffiti

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Graffiti is defined as any informal or illegal marks, drawings or paintings that have been deliberately made by a person or persons on any physical element comprising the outdoor environment, with a view to communicating some message or symbol etc. to others.

Graffiti should be recorded if it is visible from relevant land and highways (in other words, from the survey transect), on the surface of any building, wall, fence or other structure or erection, where that surface is readily visible from a place on that land or highway to which the public have access.

Fly-posting

Fly-posting is defined as any printed material and associated remains informally or illegally fixed to any structure.

Fly-posting includes any size of material from small stickers up to large posters - often advertising popular music recordings, concerts and other events.

Fly-posting *excludes* formally managed and approved advertising hoardings and valid, legally placed signs and notices. It also *excludes*:

- business cards and handbills placed under vehicle windscreen wipers and vehicle door handles;
- illegal displays on movable objects such as advertising A boards, billboards on movable bases on farmland and other open land, and on 'barrage balloons' etc...

Fly-posting should be recorded if it is visible from relevant land and highways (in other words, from the survey transect), on the surface of any building, wall, fence or other structure or erection, where that surface is readily visible from a place on that land or highway to which the public have access.

PHOTO GALLERY - LITTER

Litter - Grade B

Grade B for litter is defined as: 'Predominantly free of litter except for some small items'.



Litter - Grade C

Grade C for litter is defined as: 'Widespread distribution of litter and refuse, with minor accumulations'.



PHOTO GALLERY - LITTER

Litter - Grade D

Grade D for litter is defined as: 'Heavily littered, with significant accumulations'.



PHOTO GALLERY - DETRITUS

Detritus - Grade B

Grade B for detritus is defined as: 'Predominantly free from detritus except for some light scattering'.



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PHOTO GALLERY - DETRITUS

Detritus - Grade C

Grade C for detritus is defined as: 'Widespread distribution of detritus, with minor accumulations'.



Detritus - Grade D

Grade D for detritus is defined as: 'Extensively covered with detritus with significant accumulations'.



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PHOTO GALLERY - GRAFFITI

Graffiti - Grade B

- but it is minor in extent

Grade B for graffiti is defined as: 'Some graffiti is present,

- and many people passing through the local environment would not notice it'.



Graffiti - Grade C

- clearly visible to people passing through the local environment, and

Grade C for graffiti is defined as: 'Graffiti is present to the extent that it would be

- visible at a distance from at least one end of a 50m transect'.



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PHOTO GALLERY - GRAFFITI

Graffiti - Grade D

Grade D for graffiti is defined as: **Graffiti is - extensive over a large part of the 50m transect**

- and is likely to be clearly visible and obtrusive to people passing through the local environment, - and visible for m any point on the transect'



PHOTO GALLERY - FLYPOSTING

Flyposting - Grade B

Grade B for flyposting is defined as: **Some flyposting is present**, This can include tie-bands or other forms of fastening which remain after a notice has been removed'.

- but it is minor in nature

- and it is likely that many people would not notice its presence.



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PHOTO GALLERY - FLYPOSTING

Flyposting - Grade C

Grade C for flyposting is defined as: 'Flyposting is present in the local environment

- to the extent that it is likely to be clearly visible to people using the area, - and visible at a distance from at least one end of a 50m transect'.



Flyposting - Grade D

Grade D for flyposting is defined as: 'Flyposting is: - extensive throughout much of the local environment

- and is clearly visible and obtrusive to people passing through the street scene, - and visible from any point on a 50m transect'.

