

Safety Information Message

Reference: SIM2605

Issued: 18 March 2026

HSE recommendations on safeguarding vulnerable individuals in waste management environments

Summary

HSE has published advice on its website on reducing the risk of people being able to get into large commercial and communal domestic bins and being killed or injured.

Action

1. Direct this notice to all appropriate managers and staff.
2. Access the HSE safety advice [here](#)

Background Information

The HSE page explains how to prevent people entering large waste and recycling bins by securing storage areas, using suitable locked or restricted-access bins, training staff to check bins before emptying, and responding safely if someone is found inside. It highlights risk factors, duties for waste producers and collectors, and recommended good practices.

Suggested onward distribution (may not include all affected departments)

Adult Care Services
Adult Day Services
Adult Residential Services
Adult Social Work Services
Capital Planning & Design
Care Homes
Catering
Children's Residential Services
Day Centres
Facilities Management (LA)
Fire Safety Advisors

Health & Safety
Hospices
HSCP Chief Officer
Laundries
PFI Staff
Portering Services
Property Repairs
Property Services
Risk Management
Safety Representatives
Sterile Supplies Departments
Waste Management

References and other resources

Health and Safety Executive. "Preventing People Getting into Large Waste and Recycling Bins." Accessed 18 March 2026. <https://www.hse.gov.uk/waste/preventing.htm>.

Information about IRIC

Incident Reporting & Investigation Centre (IRIC), Facilities Division, NHSScotland Assure
NHS National Services Scotland, Tel: 0131 275 7575, email: nss.irc@nhs.scot

Accessibility: Please contact us using the above details if you are blind or have a sight impairment and would like to request this alert in a more suitable format.

IRIC remit: general information about adverse incidents, safety alerts and IRIC’s role can be found in [DL\(2024\)32](#), *Safety of Health, Social Care, Estates and Facilities Equipment: NHS Board and Local Authority Responsibilities*, issued 16 December 2024.

To find safety alerts:
scan the QR code or [click this link to visit our website](#)



To report an incident:
scan the QR code or [click this link to visit our website](#)



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