

**Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council  
Municipal Services Department**



**Draft Abandoned Bike Policy**

**Public Consultation Report**

**May 2020**

## **Introduction**

Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council is responsible for removing bikes from public areas, including from traffic poles and cycle parking stands, if they are deemed to be abandoned. Bikes that are abandoned can take up valuable cycle parking spaces on streets around the County. This policy sets out the procedure for removing a bike that is deemed to be abandoned. This policy does not apply to bikes that are parked dangerously and are causing a hazard or bikes that are in a bad state of repair. Such bikes may be removed and disposed of immediately under the Litter Pollution Act, especially if such bikes are creating a road safety hazard on the public footway or roadway.

## **What is an Abandoned Bike?**

A bike may be deemed to be abandoned if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- If it is reasonable to assume the bike has been abandoned by its owner, i.e. if a bike has not moved within 2 weeks or more.
- It is secured in a dangerous manner such as causing an obstruction on the road.
- It is secured to a Council cycle parking stand and is considered to be unroadworthy (see below).
- When it is reported by a member of the public and assessed as being unroadworthy or in a dangerous position.

A bike that is defined as unroadworthy will have sustained two or more of the following:

- Flat front/rear/both tyres
- Missing wheel(s)
- Missing saddle
- Buckled front/rear/both wheels
- Bent forks
- Seized/damaged brakes
- Rusted chain/gears
- Missing chain

## **What happens when a bike is abandoned?**

Once a bike is identified as deemed to be abandoned by a Council Official, a notice (see below) will be secured to the bike. Bikes may be monitored in the weeks leading up to this before a notice is attached. The notice will indicate that if the bike is not removed within 14 days, it is deemed to be abandoned and will be removed by the Council. The date of removal will be marked on the notice. The location of the bike will be noted and a photo will be taken of the bike.

If there is anything about the bike that identifies the owner, the County Council will attempt to contact the owner and advise them that their bike is deemed to be abandoned and will be removed. Owner should consider registering their bikes.



After a period of 14 days, the bike will be inspected again and if the bike has not moved, the County Council will take another photo of the bike, cut the lock, and remove the bike. Once a bike has been removed, the Council will store it for a further 21 days at Ballyogan depot.

The cut lock will be kept with the bike to help establish ownership if someone comes to claim the bike within the three-week period. After this period, the bike will be recycled as scrap metal or donated to a recognised charity.

**Can I claim my bike if I think it has been removed by the Council?**

Yes, any claimant should call or e-mail the County Council and will be asked to prove their ownership of the bike by providing a description of the bike (i.e. make, colour, model, serial number, etc) and details of the location where the bike was left. The owner will also be asked for the key to the lock. If an individual cannot provide this information within one week, the bike will not be released. No compensation will be paid out for any bikes removed or stored by the County Council at Ballyogan depot, in accordance with this policy.

**Contact Details:**

To report a bike as being abandoned or to claim a bike that was removed, please email [info@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:info@dlrcoco.ie) or phone (01) 204 7400.