

**Councillor Steve Pitt**

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Ref: SPOUT044

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Business Owner,

**Re: Notice of Motion debated by Portsmouth City Council on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023,  
Male Sanitary Bins**

It was resolved at the above Full Council meeting, that all of the Group Leaders, cosigned below on this letter, would write to businesses within Portsmouth regarding the provision of male sanitary bins in their toilet facilities across organisations.

As background, prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. 1 in 8 men will be diagnosed, rising to 1 in 4 for Black men. As many as 69% of those treated with surgery may experience urinary incontinence as a result. 1 in 25 men aged over 40 will experience some form of urinary leakage every year. 1 in 20 men aged 60 or over will experience bowel incontinence in the UK.

Men who need to dispose of their sanitary waste (including incontinence pads, pouches, stoma, catheter, colostomy, ileostomy waste by-products) often have no direct access to a sanitary bin in male toilets. A survey of men living with incontinence reveals that 95% feel anxiety due to a lack of sanitary bins in men's toilets for disposing of pads hygienically. Nearly one third of men surveyed have been forced to carry their own waste in a bag.

The Council agreed that men should be able to safely and hygienically dispose of incontinence products easily and with dignity wherever they go and that men who need to dispose of their sanitary waste should have direct access to a sanitary bin in male toilets and resolved to support Prostate Cancer UK's 'Boys need Bins' campaign.

The Council will be reviewing provision across its public conveniences and buildings to address this issue.

We are writing to ask you to consider introducing sanitary bins in male and unisex toilets in your buildings so that together we can improve things for men across the board in Portsmouth and collectively help to end this stigma.

Our thanks for your consideration of this request.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Steve Pitt**  
Leader of the Council and  
Liberal Democrats



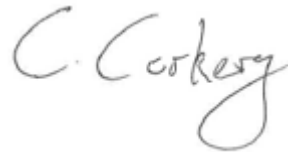
**Councillor Simon Boshier**  
Leader of the Conservative  
Party



**Cllr Charlotte Gerada**  
Leader of the Labour Party



**Cllr George Madgwick**  
Leader of the Portsmouth  
Independent Party



**Cllr Cal Corkery**  
Leader of the Portsmouth  
Community Independents