

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



**Abandoned Bike Procedure**

**November 2020**

## **Introduction**

Under the Litter Pollution Act, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council can remove and dispose of bikes from public areas that are causing a hazard or are in a bad state of repair. However, sometimes bikes can be parked for long periods at bike parking stands or at traffic poles that are not causing a hazard nor in a bad state of repair. Such bikes can take up valuable cycle parking spaces around the County. This procedure sets out the steps for removing a bike that is deemed to be abandoned on public space. Public space includes footpaths, public realm areas, cycle tracks, roads, and parks.

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

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

- If a bike has not moved in two weeks (14 calendar days) or more and it is reasonable to assume the bike has been abandoned by its owner.
- It is secured in a dangerous manner such as causing an obstruction on public space.
- It is secured to a Council cycle parking stand, traffic pole or railing 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 deemed to be abandoned by a Council Official, a tag (see below) will be secured to the bike. Bikes may be monitored in the weeks leading up to this before a tag is attached. The tag will indicate that if the bike is not removed within two weeks, it is deemed to be abandoned and it will be removed by the Council. The date of removal will be marked on the tag. 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. It is recommended that bike owners consider registering their bikes.



### ***Abandoned Bike –Text on the Tag***

After a period of two weeks, the bike will be inspected again and if the bike has not moved, the County Council will cut the lock, and remove the bike. Once a bike has been removed, the Council will store it for a further two weeks (14 calendar days) at Ballyogan depot on Ballyogan Road in Dublin 18.

The cut lock will be kept with the bike to help establish proof of ownership if someone comes to claim the bike within the two-week period. The owner will be required to provide the key to the lock as proof of ownership. After this period, the bike will be recycled as scrap metal or donated to a recognised charity or to a relevant social enterprise or similar. As part of the procedure, a database will be established to track bikes.

### ***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. They 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 to show that they have the key to unlock the bike. 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 procedure.

#### **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) 205 4700.