

SUMMARY

Summary of Report 9/2021, relating to municipal oversight of concessions for street cleaning and waste collection services in boroughs with a population of more than 20,000 inhabitants, year 2017

Barcelona, 7 July 2021

The Public Audit Office for Catalonia has issued Report 9/2021, relating to municipal oversight of concessions for street cleaning and waste collection services in boroughs with a population of more than 20,000 inhabitants, financial year 2017, in accordance with its Annual Programme of Activities.

The report, which was presented by Board Member Mr Joan-Ignasi Puigdollers, was approved by the Audit Office Board at its meeting on 15 June 2021.

The audit work was focused on analysing the monitoring activities undertaken during 2017 by the municipal councils with a population of more than 20,000 inhabitants that, in that year, had arranged to deliver any of the public services of street cleaning, waste collection and transportation and recycling depots by means of a service delivery contract in the form of a concession agreement.

The analysis was based on the information and documentation sent in by forty municipal councils relating to forty-eight contracts which, in combination or individually, included the following services: street cleaning, thirty-eight contracts; waste collection and transportation, thirty-nine contracts; recycling depots, twenty-four contracts. The study was basically focused on highlighting possible oversight deficiencies and making the relevant recommendations.

The findings arising from the work carried out are described in section 3.1 of the report and refer, basically, to the monitoring activities undertaken by the councils in 2017 and the results they produced, and also to the arrangements in place at the councils regarding the basic aspects to be considered for oversight purposes.

It was clear that during 2017 most of the municipal councils carried out technical monitoring of the services analysed by the audit which were covered by these contracts. However, it must be highlighted that in five of the contracts which included street cleaning, five of the ones which included refuse collection and four of those that included recycling depots, this type of monitoring was not undertaken.

For those services where deficiencies were detected thanks to the technical monitoring undertaken, in only slightly more than half of the cases did the action taken by the councils consist in linking those deficiencies to contract payments or imposing penalties; the remaining measures consisted in notifying the contractor of the deficiencies so that, where applicable,

they could be corrected. It must be said, however, that even after detecting deficiencies, in two of the contracts covering street cleaning and in three covering waste collection the councils did not take action of any kind.

The following table provides a summary, for each of the services analysed, of the technical monitoring activities carried out by the forty municipal councils in 2017 and their outcomes:

Street cleaning service: 38 contracts included this service			
Technical monitoring activities undertaken in 2017: 33 contracts, 87%	Deficiencies detected thanks to these activities: 24 contracts, 73%	Measures taken as a result of the deficiencies: 22 contracts, 92%	Deficiencies linked to payments to the concession holder or penalties applied: 12 contracts, 55%
			Concession holder simply notified in order to correct the deficiencies where applicable: 10 contracts, 45%
	No measures taken as a result of the deficiencies: 2 contracts, 8%		
No deficiencies detected in monitoring procedures: 9 contracts, 27%			
No technical monitoring activities undertaken in 2017: 5 contracts, 13%			
Waste collection and transportation service: 39 contracts included this service			
Technical monitoring activities undertaken in 2017: 34 contracts, 87%	Deficiencies detected thanks to these activities: 22 contracts, 65%	Measures taken as a result of the deficiencies: 19 contracts, 86%	Deficiencies linked to payments to the concession holder or penalties applied: 10 contracts, 53%
			Concession holder simply notified in order to correct the deficiencies where applicable: 9 contracts, 47%
	No measures taken as a result of the deficiencies: 3 contracts, 14%		
No deficiencies detected in monitoring procedures: 12 contracts, 35%			
No technical monitoring activities undertaken in 2017: 5 contracts, 13%			
Recycling depots: 24 contracts included this service			
Technical monitoring activities undertaken in 2017: 20 contracts, 83%	Deficiencies detected thanks to these activities: 4 contracts, 20%	Measures taken as a result of the deficiencies: 4 contracts, 100%	Deficiencies linked to payments to the concession holder or penalties applied: 1 contract, 25%
			Concession holder simply notified in order to correct the deficiencies where applicable: 3 contracts, 75%
	No measures taken as a result of the deficiencies: no contracts		
No deficiencies detected in monitoring procedures: 16 contracts, 80%			
No technical monitoring activities undertaken in 2017: 4 contracts, 17%			

In section 3.2 a series of recommendations are made relating to the regulations and internal organisation arrangements for these services; the contract documents; the technical and financial monitoring arrangements; and relations with the general public.

This summary is solely for information purposes. The audit report (in Catalan and Spanish) can be consulted at www.sindicatura.cat.