

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 October 2020 11:32
To: wastecomments
Subject: Deposit Return Scheme - Consultation on Potential Models for Ireland
Categories: Consultation Submission

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Hi,

Answers to the questions posed in the Consultation paper below.

Q: The Report recommends a centralised, operational model for Ireland. Do you agree with this recommendation?

A: Yes I think this seems the most efficient model.

Q: If not, do you favour a:

- a) decentralised / financial DRS; or,
- b) hybrid.

A: N/A

Q: Are there other models you believe could work in an Irish context?

A: I am not aware of any.

Q: What role should waste collectors play in the operation of a DRS?

A: They should help to advertise the scheme, telling people that they can return the containers rather than putting them in the bin.

Q: The DRS study proposes a deposit per container of €0.20. Do you think this is appropriate?

A: Yes that seems reasonable although maybe make it a tad higher. In Germany it was €0.25 for plastic containers. I suppose you want it to be high enough to encourage people to redeem it.

Q: If not should it be higher or lower or should different deposit rates apply depending on container size?

A: Slightly higher, I wouldn't suggest too many different deposits as it could be confusing, maybe 2 levels at most?

Q: Consumers need to know about a DRS long before it becomes operational – do you have any suggestions as to how best the introduction of a DRS can be communicated to the public?

A: Outside of the usual methods (TV, Radio, Social Media), advertising on the containers themselves at the start.

Q: What enforcement measures should be considered in parallel with the introduction of [REDACTED]

A: Presumably operators that sell products outside the scheme should be fined. Also there should be measures to discourage retailers that don't really offer the service, as in don't maintain the machines or make it difficult to return the products should

Q: How should cross-border issues be treated to ensure producers are not at a competitive disadvantage relative to producers in Northern Ireland?

A: This would have been the case with the plastic bag levy as well, I don't recall any big problems during that time. We shouldn't use the excuse of the border, to not introduce this beneficial scheme here. Note this can also be a problem at the airport/port where people who buy a container may not be able to redeem the deposit unless they keep the container for the entire duration of the trip. Possibly waive the fee at the airport?

Overall:

I am very much in favour of this scheme. I lived in Germany for 5 years where a scheme is in operation. It was a little confusing at first as you could only recycle brands that a shop sold. So if your local Tesco say didn't sell Ballygowan then you couldn't redeem your deposit there. But it seems that the centralised scheme proposed should avoid this.

Thanks

[REDACTED]