

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 26 October 2020 21:12
To: wastecomments
Subject: Deposit Return Scheme Consultation

Categories: Consultation Submission

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please see my answers below in green in response to the DRS Public Consultation.

[Redacted]

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

• **What role should waste collectors play in the operation of a DRS?** Waste collectors should be the middle man between the Reverse Vending Machines or other collection sites and the producer sites.

• **The DRS study proposes a deposit per container of €0.20. Do you think this is appropriate?** Yes this is appropriate as it needs to be a significant value to encourage returning the waste. €0.20 is approximately 10% of the price of a beverage.

I wouldn't differentiate based on bottle size as this may dis-incentivise the returning of certain bottles or cans. Understand that, even if the direct consumer doesn't return the waste, this scheme will incentivize indirect agents to return the waste. Therefore, having different deposit values will lead to lower value waste being left as litter.

• **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?**

The usual communication avenues such as TV, radio and door-to-door leaflets should be utilized to educate the public. Social media is a new avenue that should be exploited also.

• **What enforcement measures should be considered in parallel with the introduction of a DRS?** I think the incentive to reclaim the deposit will negate any need for enforcement measures on the consumer. However, on the producer and waste collector sides, activities need to be monitored and audited for potential fraud reasons.

• **How should cross-border issues be treated to ensure producers are not at a competitive disadvantage relative to producers in Northern Ireland?** Both sides should have a DRS scheme. If not then the disadvantage due to a price differential will only be an issue for border counties: in a similar way that petrol and cigarettes in NI are cheaper. I don't think this will lead to smuggling of cheaper beverages from NI to ROI due to they being less significant goods than fuel or cigarettes.

Case Study #1

My fiance is Finnish and I have participated in their centralised DRS which appears to be a great success story in combating waste (92% of potential waste is returned!) In 2018, Finns returned 460 million plastic bottles! This is almost 92 bottles per person in Finland, a nation roughly the same population as Ireland. The consumer brings their eligible bottles and cans to reverse vending machines in the lobby of supermarkets.

The consumer then gets store credit which they can use to purchase goods in the supermarket. Additionally, I have observed that the homeless people, students and other less fortunate people roam the [REDACTED] of discarded bottles and cans in the knowledge that these can be converted to money. At festivals in [REDACTED] and, a lot of people bring black bags with them to pick up discarded bottles and cans. Essentially, the problem takes care of itself!

Case Study#2

I live in Galway city and I routinely pick up litter in the public parks and civic spaces as an eco-hobby of mine. The majority of the litter is cans, plastic bottles and glass bottles (see attached photo). The majority of litter is also alcoholic in nature. We have big problems in Ireland with antisocial behavior being accepted in public places. It is even more visible because the litter is left in situ and a lot of the time thrown into bushes when putting it into a bin would have been easier. With a DRS incentive, the impact of antisocial drinking would be reduced.

Looking forward to this DRS scheme becoming a part of Irish life soon.

Best regards

[REDACTED]
Galway City