

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 12 November 2020 10:20
To: wastecomments
Subject: Deposit and Refund Scheme

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Short Summary

I'd Prefer one body, guided by statutory legislation to roll out the scheme. I don't want to hear that IBEC or the IWMA involved in its establishment as they have commercial interests only, I want the scheme to be uniform across the country with the same branding with the sole purpose to provide a fair and user friendly facility to return plastic bottles and drink cans for the public. Allowing waste to be treated as a resource and in turn decreasing the rate of littering across the country. Deposits left unclaimed should be ringfenced to fund national anti littering advertising like that seen this year by Leave No Trace but with better connectivity with County Councils. The ERP systems that operate currently vary greatly in their operations and some are more transparent than others. WEEE Ireland for example are transparent in their annual reports and an excellent public profile, they engage with the public, an operation like them would serve the DRS scheme greatly. We need accountability and a scheme for the people that benefits the environment.

Background

It would be preference that the DRS is statutory mandated by legislation and not led by producers. I am of the opinion that the producers will be reluctant to roll out the model and as it will involve multiple stakeholders, getting consent to roll out a common model would delay the roll out of the scheme. I believe that many producers will use this as a delay tactic. Whatever scheme comes into place, it should be one national scheme, operating by a national operator, with the same physical infrastructure, with readily identifiable DRS branding so that the public become familiar with how the scheme operates.

The consultation paper reports on how the materials are currently collected and while the waste industry celebrates the successful collection of recyclates via their kerb side collection, the consultation paper correctly addresses the issue that "on the go" packaging waste often becomes litter and there is difficulty segregating plastics bottles and drink cans deposited in street litter bins. This scheme will greatly benefit the decrease of litter if the public can easily redeem their refund.

I have seen comments in the public domain stemming from the waste industry discrediting the requirement for a DRS, leading to speculation that they do not want the scheme rolled out as it will potentially decrease the value of the recycling they collect from the kerbside. The waste industry has dragged their heels on rolling out the 3rd bin for food waste to population areas above 5,000 people, their responsibility to their customers in keeping them informed on what goes into their three bins system is often pathetic and at least the www.mywaste.ie platform now provides some clarity, I hope the waste management sector is not permitted to control or place pressure on how the scheme should operate in Ireland for their only interests serve their profits and shareholders.

Speaking of finance, there was a reference that the scheme was a cashless model, it is disappointing that there was no further details provided regarding the options for refunding individuals of their €0.20. If its complicated, the refund will not be claimed and the DRS will not be fit for purpose. Also, how will this

money that remains unclaimed be managed? Will it go back to the operator or ring fenced for environmental projects like the landfill tax and plastic bag levy? Personally, I would prefer a cash model, getting €0.20 into the hand will act as an incentive and could raise funds for charities and youth groups. How will the scheme cover the cost of bottles which were placed onto the market before the DRS scheme is launched. There will be lots of plastic bottles collected from ditches across Ireland if there is a financial incentive, will the government be providing a starting balance for the scheme?

Please keep to your stated implementation timeline, this scheme will be brilliant for Ireland. Thanks for the opportunity to provide input into this scheme.

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the author.