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From: [Redacted]
Sent: 12 November 2020 11:45
To: wastecomments
Subject: Deposit Return Scheme Comments

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Hi there,

I am an Irish citizen, currently living in Berlin. I thought I'd share my perspective, in case it may be useful for Ireland's coming Deposit Return Scheme.

Here, almost all bottles (glass and plastic) are marked with a logo which indicates they can be returned as part of the deposit return scheme. All super markets have machines which accept the bottles, scanning the barcodes to check if they are part of the scheme and determine the value, sort the bottles in a back-room, and provide a receipt to the customer which can then be redeemed at the checkout where the value is discounted against the cost of goods. Generally, the deposit cost on each bottle is 10-20c per bottle, depending on the size.

Also, smaller shops, off licences and newsagents who sell drinks who don't have a machine to accept bottle returns, also must take part in the scheme paying out the deposit amount at the till.

The benefits of this system are immense - on the environment and on people's behaviours and attitudes towards routine recycling. It seamlessly integrates the recycling process with the existing regular shopping routine.

Naturally, it will present large logistic problems for the government and retailers alike. What I've seen here is that supermarkets very much require a separate space for storage for the returned bottles. Most would be built with an entire separate storage room, where the bottles are sorted and then collected. I hope that necessary time and resources will be properly developed and invested in as it will be well worth it.

If I can offer any further perspective on the scheme here in Berlin, I'd be happy to answer any questions.

All the best,
[Redacted]

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