



**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 November 2020 13:39  
**To:** wastecomments  
**Subject:** Submission on Deposit Return Scheme Consultation

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Dear Sir / Madam,

I am making this short submission in my personal capacity, in support of the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme.

I do not have input on all the queries raised in the Consultation, and have rather set out some brief comments below.

A centralised system does seem appropriate, but it should ensure through regulation that sufficient return points (RVMs) are made available countrywide. Consideration should be given to RVMs being installed nearby apartment complexes (in addition to retail outlets), as with the popularity of home delivery of groceries growing this means many people living in apartments with centralised waste collection may be unable to participate otherwise. In addition, home collection options with waste collectors might be considered further, as the convenience factor and potential offset to collection costs is likely to promote participation.

Labelling requirements should be including in any regulation, so that the consumer is informed on the product of the deposit paid and that it is returnable.

Initially a single deposit amount is appropriate, with scope to change later to vary with the size of containers once the scheme has gathered public participation.

My experience of a similar scheme in Germany is that it led to some different social norms, which I have outlined below. These ought to be considered, as regulation may be able to create convenient solutions for the public on these.

- Households did separate waste better, but amassed a large collection of bottles awaiting return (with no proper temporary storage solution) and it became difficult to arrange return as collections increased causing some to be put in general waste; and
- bottle and cans from beverages consumed in public were often left on the ground beside public bins (because (a) there was no RVM nearby, (b) there was no separate bin for recycling, or (c) it was seen as a social way to donate the deposit to a homeless/beggar who could collect the bottles/cans without rummaging through the trash, and return them for the deposit).

I hope this input proves useful. Best of luck with the Scheme.

Kind regards,



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