

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 12 November 2020 14:52
To: wastecomments
Cc: eamon.ryan@oireachtas.ie; cv@cvsdoyle.ie; pippa.hackett@oireachtas.ie
Subject: enquiry 1428, November 12th 20

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Re proposed Deposit and Return Scheme [Redacted]

Mr Eamon Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport.

Ms Pippa Hackett, Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity

Dear Sir / Madam

Unless I had read the Journal this morning, I would never have known that such a consultation was taking place. I read newspapers regularly and watch social media relatively carefully and I saw no mention of this (most important) initiative at all. My wife tells me it was on the Department website. I have no answer to that other than to say that I don't refer to that website that often unless I am looking for some specific information.....and I hadn't noted any particular reference to such a consultation. I don't know if any other people noticed it either but I am going to suggest that if you do not get good feedback from it, then it is likely that few people knew about the feedback initiative.....and that, therefore, it might be worth extending the closing date for submissions as well as making a well-advertised, national request for feedback.

I live on a small, narrow rural road between the two small villages of Broadway and Taghmshane. Late last year, I picked up ten Co Co waste bags of rubbish along a 1 km stretch of this which our land bounds. This needs to be done again and I expect this time that I'll find at least three bags worth. A very big proportion of this waste was pet bottles and glass bottles. I can never get over the propensity to litter in this country – we are desperate for it.

If we had a systematic waste scheme such as the above DRS for glass and PET products, this would be an enormous start on the issue of littering.....and hopefully would be successful to the same extent as was seen when plastic bag littering literally ceased overnight when the bag deposit was introduced.

We are never going to solve the littering problem – this is too deeply ingrained as a god given right by a huge number of people – but it can and should help significantly reduce the phenomenon that blights every road in every country of the land.

The challenge, of course, is the economics and morality of it all – why collect it just to send it to landfill in Ireland or export it to Africa or Asia.....to collect it for the purpose of shipping it out of the country is not good. If there is a DRS, this should be for about 5 – 10 years duration but undertaken in conjunction with a substantial initiative to introduce proper and more easily recyclable materials for as many mainstream grocery and beverage packaging products as possible.....to usual 80 : 20 rule. We should cease using cartons and plastic for milk and start using glass for all beverages currently in 300 – 500 ml containers. We should look at the biggest users of packaging products and focus on them to explore returning to glass or metal use.....and show leadership at a EU and global level.

Wishing all the authorities every success with this initiative.

Kind Regards

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