

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 November 2020 20:14
To: wastecomments
Subject: Deposit return scheme submission

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Dear Sir or Madam,

I have attempted to place my answers in between your questions which are highlighted in bold.

Regards

[REDACTED]

- **The Report recommends a centralised, operational model for Ireland. Do you agree with this recommendation?**
- **If not, do you favour a:**
 - a) **decentralised / financial DRS; or,**
 - b) **hybrid.**
- **Are there other models you believe could work in an Irish context?**

Having stayed with friends in Freising, Germany and viewing their plastic bottle and glass bottle recycling I would request that we follow it;

My friends collect their glass and plastic bottles and, the next time they visit the supermarket, return the bottles to various machines. Each bottle is checked and examined by the machine and at the end a receipt is printed stating the value of the deposit to be returned. No actual money was returned, therefore no money was stored in the machine.

What is interesting is that the machines were operated by the supermarket - if you used the printed receipt in their store against your shopping they gave you a further 10% of the value of the returned bottles. If you wished they would also refund you the value of the returned deposit.

- **What role should waste collectors play in the operation of a DRS**

Waste collectors can empty the machines - similar to the way bottle banks are emptied currently.

- **The DRS study proposes a deposit per container of €0.20. Do you think this is appropriate? If not should it be higher or lower or should different deposit rates apply depending on container size?**

The machines I saw weighed each bottle, if there is a set price per gram of bottle it is the fairest to the consumer, in saying that two problems occur to me;

- a) How big a bottle will the max size be. There are plastic bottles sold up to 5 litres I believe.
- b) The machine will need to be able to determine that someone hasn't filled the bottle to gain weight and this extra value. I think the German machines cross reference size AND weight - if you are a certain percentage over weight for a size (volume) of bottle then it should be rejected

• 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?

Besides the ads that will be on TV and radio have competitions on Facebook, Twitter etc with prizes - people pay attention when they might get something for nothing.

Have promotions in stores in the weeks leading up to the start of the scheme.

Have ads/banners in store in the weeks leading up to the scheme.

Have spot prizes for the first few weeks - eg 100th customer at the machine gets double value of deposit or a flat fee of €20

• What enforcement measures should be considered in parallel with the introduction of a DRS?

Spot checking of bins - people have to explain why they haven't recycled any bottles found.

CCTV at the machines so anyone dumping bottles that are refused are targeted with fines. Do not give any grace period on these fines and publicise any fines applied. Otherwise people will dump as they currently do at bottle banks and the scheme will get a bad name at the outset. Make it clear in all advertising pre the scheme start that fines WILL be given, with no mercy.

• How should cross-border issues be treated to ensure producers are not at a competitive disadvantage relative to producers in Northern Ireland?

Talk to the NI executive to bring in a parallel scheme, with the same start time.

Finally I believe that a similar scheme should be introduced for glass recycling. The machines I mentioned above can also be used for glass bottles. It would make sense to bring in a glass recycling deposit scheme at the same time as a plastic/aluminum deposit scheme. It would be a cost saving in planning and advertising.