



# Deposit Return Scheme for Wales

Tell us what you think about our plan for  
returning bottles and cans



August 2025

# How to use this document



This is an Easy Read version of: **Delivering a Best for Wales Deposit Return Scheme.**



You may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand, we have explained what they mean.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government**. For more information contact:

**E-mail:** [wg.drsprogramme@gov.wales](mailto:wg.drsprogramme@gov.wales)



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# Contents

**What this survey is about.....4**

**How the scheme works ..... 9**

**The benefits of the scheme ..... 16**

**We want your views ..... 22**

**Questions..... 23**

**About you ..... 35**

# What this survey is about



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

We are the Welsh Government.



On 10 July 2025, we shared our plan for a **Deposit Return Scheme** in Wales.



This survey asks what you think about our plan.

# What is a Deposit Return Scheme



A **Deposit Return Scheme** means:

You pay a small extra amount of money when you buy a drink in a bottle or can. The extra amount of money is called a deposit.



You get the deposit money back when you return the empty container.

The container is then reused or recycled. This helps:



- Reduce waste.



- Protect the environment.



- Encourage recycling and reuse.

# What is happening in Wales

Wales will have its own **Deposit Return Scheme** for:



- **Single use** drink containers. Like metal cans, glass, and plastic bottles.



- **Reusable** drink containers that can be used again and again.

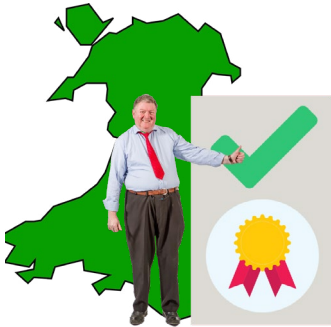


A new group called a **Deposit Management Organisation** will run the scheme in Wales.

## Why this is important



We want Wales to be a leader in **sustainability**. This means making things last longer. This is good for people and the planet.



Wales is already second best in the world for recycling.



The scheme will start slowly so businesses have time to get ready.



We will work closely with businesses to help the scheme work well.



Everyone in Wales can help make this scheme a success.

## How to take part



We want to know what you think of these plans.  
Please read this guide then answer the questions.

**You can send your answers by:**



**Email:** [wg.drsprogramme@gov.wales](mailto:wg.drsprogramme@gov.wales)



**Online form:** [www.gov.wales/delivering-deposit-return-scheme-drinks-containers-wales](http://www.gov.wales/delivering-deposit-return-scheme-drinks-containers-wales)



# How the scheme works

## This is how the scheme will work:



You pay a small deposit when you buy a drink.



When you return the empty bottle or can to a return point, you get the deposit money back.



Returned containers will be:

- Reused – cleaned and used again.
- Or recycled – turned into new containers.



Reusing is better for the environment and costs less than recycling.



This also makes businesses more responsible for the things they sell.

## Who is in charge



A new group called a **Deposit Management Organisation** will run the scheme.



This type of scheme already works well in other countries. Most people return empty containers to shops.

# Why we are doing this



The scheme helps:

- Reduce waste and litter.
- Lower damage to the air, land, and water.
- Create new jobs.
- Save money. It could save billions of pounds in Wales.



The scheme will be available in all areas of Wales. It must be easy to use for everyone.



We plan to start the scheme in **October 2027**.



The scheme will be for single use plastic and can drink containers.

**Glass bottles** will also be part of the scheme from the start:



- You will **not pay a deposit** on glass bottles at the start of the scheme.



- This will help **collect more glass** in Wales.



- It also gives time for **businesses to get ready** for the changes.



- This is **different** from how the scheme will work in the rest of the UK.

# What containers are included

You can return containers that are:



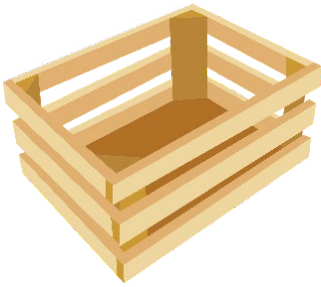
From 150ml up to 3 litres in size. Made from:

- Plastic
- Glass
- Aluminium
- Steel



For example, a small drink can and a large plastic bottle of soft drink.

# Handling reusable drink containers



In some countries, shops sell drinks in special crates made for reusable bottles. People use these crates to carry their empty bottles back to return points.



Reusable bottles can be different shapes and sizes. We may need different types of crates, bottle bags or plastic boxes.



We think the choice of using crates, bags, boxes, or similar items should be made by the drinks industry.



This should be done with help from a **Deposit Management Organisation**.

# Deposit amount



Choosing the right deposit amount is very important for the **Deposit Return Scheme**.



Some countries use the same deposit amount for different types of containers.



Others use different deposit amounts based on the container's size and material. Or whether it is reusable or single use.



We think that a **Deposit Management Organisation** should decide the deposit amounts. They should:

- Look at what other countries do.
- Think about what works best for Wales.
- Regularly check the deposit amounts to make sure they are working well. And are fair for people and businesses.

# The benefits of the scheme

## Reducing waste in Wales



We have a plan called **Beyond Recycling**.



It aims to:

- Cut down on waste.
- Send less waste to landfill or for burning.
- Make reusing drink containers normal.



# Tackling litter



Litter is a big problem in Wales and around the world.



Drink containers are a big part of the litter found on:

- Streets
- Parks and green spaces
- Beaches



This litter:

- Hurts people, animals, and nature.



- Costs money to clean up.



- Makes places look messy.

In 2023 to 2024:



- Just under half of Welsh streets had drink container litter.



- Nearly all beaches had littered bottles and cans.



A **Deposit Return Scheme** helps reduce litter.  
People return containers to get their money back.

# Helping the economy



The **economy** is how much money a country has and makes. For example, from selling things and paying for things.



Wales is already good at recycling.

This new scheme will:



- Help keep containers in use in Wales.



- Reduce the need to buy new ones from other countries.



- Create new jobs in collecting, sorting, and cleaning containers.

A report says reusing containers could:



- Create up to 13 thousand new jobs.



- Save up to £570 million each year.



- Help businesses by giving them better materials and reusable containers.

# A greener future

Using reusable containers will help:



- Reduce pollution that can harm the air, water and land.



- Protect the environment.



- Make a greener economy for everyone.

# We want your views



We are asking everyone in Wales what they think.



This survey will run until **10 November 2025**.

# Questions



1. We think the scheme will work best if we plan to start it slowly over time.
  - The plan will show what will be reused and recycled and where.
  - We will set goals for when each part of the plan comes into effect.

**Do you agree with the idea of using a plan like this?**

Yes

No

Do not know

**Please write any comments in this box:**



**2. Do you think targets should be the same for all types of materials?**

**Or have separate targets for each type of material? Plastic, glass and metal.**

1 target for all materials

A separate target for each type of material





3. Other countries only had a few different types of glass drink containers to start with. The scheme was then made bigger to include more types of glass drink containers.

**Should we start with some glass drink containers and add more later?**

Yes

No

Do not know

**Please write any comments in this box:**



**4. In the future, should the scheme include other containers, not just for drinks?**

Yes

No

Do not know

**Please write any comments in this box:**



On **page 14**, we talked about deciding what type of container to use to return reusable bottles.

**5. Do you agree that the drinks industry should decide what kind of container should be used to return reusable bottles?**

**For example, crates, bags or boxes.**

Yes

No

The Welsh Government should decide

Do not know

**Please write any comments in this box:**



On **page 15**, we talked about setting deposit amounts for reusable and single use containers.

**6. What do you think the deposit amount should be for reusable drink containers, compared to single use containers?**

The deposit for reusable containers should be higher

The deposit for reusable containers should be lower

The deposit should be the same for both

Do not know

**Please write any comments in this box:**



On **pages 16 to 21**, we talked about the benefits of reusable containers.



For example:

- Reducing waste.
- Saving money.
- Creating jobs.
- Helping the environment.

**7. How do you think we can use the Deposit Return Scheme to help benefit Wales?  
Please write any comments in this box:**



**8. How can we support small businesses with the scheme? Please write any comments in this box:**

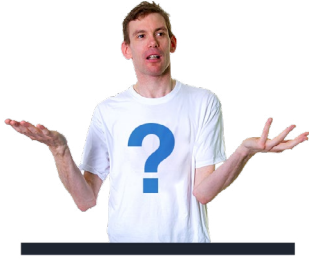


- 9. How can we help communities in Wales benefit from the scheme? Please write any comments in this box:**



**10. How can we improve the use of Welsh within the scheme? Please write any comments in this box:**





**11. If there is anything else you would like to say, please write it in this box:**

# About you

If you would like an Easy Read version of how we store and use your information, please:



**Visit our website:** [www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2025-07/GDPR-easy-read-version.pdf](http://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2025-07/GDPR-easy-read-version.pdf)



**Email us:** [wg.drsprogramme@gov.wales](mailto:wg.drsprogramme@gov.wales)

## Your details

**Name:**



**Organisation (if you are replying from one):**



**Email:**



**Phone number:**



**Address:**





**Are you (please tick):**

A member of the public

A small business

A large business

A local council in Wales

An environmental group

A community group

Other (please say what)