

A Deposit Return Scheme

Benefiting all of Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



A consultation for young people

Hello

Wales is already a world leader in recycling, but the Welsh Government wants to do more.



So, we're setting up a **Deposit Return Scheme** — or DRS for short.

We want to make sure the DRS works for everyone and benefits all of Wales.

➡ It helps jobs, business and the economy:

- New industries will grow around collecting, sorting, and cleaning reusable bottles.
- Shops and small businesses could offer return points or reusable bottle options.

➡ It helps us reach our goals to protect the planet now and for future generations:

- reducing litter
- reducing pollution
- reducing the amount of plastic and glass being used
- reducing carbon and helps us get to net-zero by 2050.

We want to know what you think.

? So, read this document and answer the questions here:
➡ gov.wales/delivering-deposit-return-scheme-drinks-containers-wales



How it works

When you buy a drink, you pay a bit extra — **a deposit**.



And when you return the empty bottle or can, you get it back.



When you return them...

some will be washed and reused.

If they can't be reused they will be recycled and turned into new ones.



Talking about...the DRS



From 2019 - 2021 there were other consultations about introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. We used what people said to help us develop the DRS in Wales.

How this will work

The DRS will be managed and run by a **Deposit Management Organisation (DMO)**. Any organisation that wants to be the DMO will need to:

- complete an application form
- provide a plan for how they will meet all the scheme requirements.

What's included



The DRS will include drink containers that are:

- 150ml to 3 litres
- sold in large numbers
- made from:



Glass



Plastic (PET)



Aluminium and steel.



The DRS will not include glass containers that:

- are sold in small numbers by smaller producers
- are already part of a reuse system like doorstep milk deliveries.



Planning the journey – the 'reuse roadmap'

We can't do everything at once, but this will start the journey towards having more reusable drinks containers and fewer single-use ones.

i We will write a set of rules for the DRS called the Regulatory Framework. It will set out what we expect to happen.

There will be another plan too. It will show how we will move from single-use to more reusable drinks containers. This 'reuse roadmap' is an important part of helping us reach our goals.

We think the drinks industry should work with the Deposit Management Organisation (DMO) to develop this plan.



Tell us what you think.



Talking about...setting targets and goals

For reusable containers

Other countries have set targets. In Germany 50% of all drink containers sold are reusable. But, in Latvia the target is 15%.

A new European Union law sets targets that mean by:

- 2030 — at least 10% of drinks packaging must be reusable
- By 2040 — it must be at least 40%.

Targets for the DMO

We want to set reuse targets for the DMO. This would mean they have to have a minimum percentage of drinks containers collected for reuse, rather than used once and recycled. These targets will be measured per item (rather than by weight) and will increase over time, from 2031, 2035, and 2040.

Targets for Producers

We also want to set reuse targets for producers. This would mean they have to have a minimum percentage of reusable drinks containers available for sale. These targets will increase over time, from 2031, 2035, and 2040.



Tell us what you think.

Targets to show we're improving

Wales is already one of the best in the world at recycling — but we want to do even better and show we're making progress.

We want to set collection targets for the first three years of the DRS at 70%, then 80%, then 90%. These targets won't apply to glass bottles while they have no deposit.

After the first three years, we want Wales to reach the same high levels as the best schemes in the world.



Tell us what you think.

Talking about...return points

Return points

Most schemes get people to return empty drink containers to shops and supermarkets. Some also have reverse vending machines (RVMs). But new technology like apps could give more options in the future.

The DMO will decide where to put return points.

They will need to make sure returning bottles and cans is an easy process. They must make sure return points are easy for people to find, easy to use and meet people's needs.



Talking about... refunds

Refund options

Many people use cards to pay for things, but some people don't have bank accounts and others just use cash. So refunds should be available in different ways and could depend on how people have returned their container.

We think there should be:

- Return points at supermarkets, local shops and special depots — refunds could be paid in cash, by card or using app.
- Doorstep or kerbside return points — refunds could be paid into bank accounts, using the app or used as a credit for online grocery deliveries. This wouldn't include cash.

All return points should include ways to donate your refund to a charity.

Carrying reusable containers

In some countries, shops sell drinks in reusable bottle crates. People use them to take their bottles back. Other places use things like bottle bags or plastic boxes for returns.

We think the decision on what to use should be left to the drinks industry. They can work with the DMO to find what's best.



Tell us what you think.

Deposit levels

The deposit value can affect how many people return their bottles and cans. So, it's important we set it right.

Some countries use one flat-rate for all containers. Others set different amounts. For example:

In Germany all single-use containers have a €0.25 flat rate.

But reusable containers are different:

- Glass beer bottle: €0.08.
- Glass / PET plastic mineral water bottle: €0.15 or €0.25.
- Glass wine bottles: €0.02 or €0.03.

In Latvia it's €0.10 flat rate for everything.

We think the DMO should decide the deposit value. They will need to decide if the deposit for reusable drinks containers is the same or different from single-use containers. They can use examples from other countries to decide what would work best for Wales.



Tell us what you think.



Managing other changes

There are many things to think about when setting up a DRS:

- how do we support businesses to make changes for the DRS
- how many times can a container be reused before it's recycled
- do bottles need to be one standard size and shape
- how to stop fraud and make sure the system is fair.


We will work with the drinks industry and the DMO so things happen in the best way.

Benefiting all communities

We think the DRS will bring lots of benefits to communities across Wales now and in the future. It will help us:

- reach our goals to protect the planet
- create new jobs and businesses
- grow the economy.


We have lots of ideas on how to do this including supporting community events and school workshops. But we want to make sure all communities benefit!

 Tell us what you think.

Welsh language

We will make sure people can use the system in Welsh. It will have clear, easy-to-understand bilingual signs, instructions, and information.


How do you think this will affect the Welsh Language?

 Tell us what you think.

Thanks for taking part

Please send your answers to:

 wg.drsprogramme@gov.wales

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