

Deposit Return Scheme

This document explains what the Deposit Return Scheme is about and asks questions to find out what you think about it.

Easy Read

What is a Deposit Return Scheme?



A deposit return scheme is where you pay a bit more money for a drink in a bottle or a can.



This extra money is called the 'deposit'. This means that if you take the bottle or can back to the shop, they will give you the deposit money back.

How to tell the Scottish Government what you think.



This consultation wants to hear from you about this idea and how it might work.

A 'consultation' is how the government asks the public for their thoughts and ideas before making changes to the law.

We will set out our ideas and ask what you think about them.

We will also ask if you have any new ideas of your own.



This paper gives you information about the consultation and questions to answer.

You can go to the Scottish Government Website to answer all the questions.

<https://consult.gov.scot/environment-forestry/deposit-return-scheme/>



You can also send your answers by email or by post.

Email: DRSinScotland@ov.scot

Write to:

Scottish Government Deposit
Return Team
Area 3H South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ



You have until 25 September 2018 to give your answers. You do not have to give your name.

Why do we need a Deposit Return Scheme?



The Scottish Government wants Scotland to reuse things so that we throw away as little as possible.



This could mean fixing things that are broken instead of buying new things and using things again and again.

How many bottles and cans are recycled



More than 2 billion drinks in bottles or cans are sold every year in Scotland.



Only about half of these bottles and cans are recycled. That means they are remade into new bottles and cans once they are empty.



Some other countries in Europe recycle almost all of their bottles and cans.



The Deposit Return Scheme will give people back the deposit they paid when they recycle bottles and cans. The Scottish Government thinks this will help people to recycle.

Environment



This idea will also help the environment. The environment is everything around us, like air, the oceans, sunlight, trees and animals.

Living things live in their environment.



The Scottish Government thinks this idea can stop between 2.7 and 4.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide going into the air.

Carbon dioxide is dangerous gas.

Changing behaviours



Empty cans and bottles can be litter. This can make our communities look messy. This plan hopes that people will recycle their cans and bottles and not throw them away.

Making and Saving Money with the Deposit Return Scheme



Scotland could save money by recycling more and looking after our environment.



The people who make bottles and cans want them to be recycled.

They need lots of empty bottles and cans to make new ones.

The Deposit Return Scheme will mean there are more cans and bottles that can be used again.



Deposit Return means there could be jobs for people like:

- Managers
- Drivers
- Sales people
- Scientists
- Engineers
- Designers

The same plan across the UK



The Scottish Government is open to work with governments in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to make sure bottles and cans are recycled everywhere.

They also want to make sure that the people who make bottles and cans are able to get them back to make new cans and bottles.

What are the different ways a Scottish Deposit Return Scheme could work?



There are different ways the project could work. The Scottish Government wants to have the best plan in place.



The Scottish Government has a list of 12 things that they need to decide.



1. What will be recycled? For example, plastic bottles, metal cans, glass bottles or all of these?

2. Will it just be bottles or should other things be included?

3. Where do you take your bottles to get your cash deposit back?

4. How will the Scottish Government pay for this project?

5. How will the Scottish Government tell people about it?



6. How much money should the deposit be?

7. What do we need to have in place to make sure it works? For example, do we need new shops to take the bottles to?



8. How will the Scottish Government make sure that no-one abuses the project?

9. How will the Scottish Government know that the project is working?

10. Who is going to make sure that the project is working?



11. Who is in charge of the project?

12. Should there be other benefits?

All of these things are important for the project to work.

A fair and accessible plan

The Government also needs to think about equalities so that everyone can use the Deposit Return Scheme.



- Access for older people
- Access for disabled people including people with learning disabilities and those who have visual impairments
- Access for people living away from towns and cities
- Access to information for people who do not speak English as their first language.
- Access for people living in poverty

What materials will be collected?

A survey form titled "Questions" with two speech bubbles containing question marks. The question is "1. What do you think about it?". There are three options: "Good" with an unchecked box, "Bad" with an unchecked box, and "Not sure" with a checked box. A hand is shown marking the "Not sure" option. A large red X is drawn over the entire form.

Question 1

Please put a cross against which choice you think should be included in the Deposit Return Scheme?

Choice 1



Plastic only. This is the most simple option. This would include soft drink and water bottles.

There are 690 million of these in Scotland.

Yes

No

Not sure

Choice 2



Plastic and metal cans only. This would include most soft drinks, water bottles and some alcoholic drinks.

There are 1.3 billion of these in Scotland.

Yes

No

Not sure



Choice 3

Plastic, glass, aluminium and steel cans. This covers most drinks and also covers where most of our litter comes from.

There are 1.7 billion of these in Scotland.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Yes | No | Not sure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Choice 4



Plastic, glass and metal cans, but this also covers milk cartons and yoghurt drinks.

There are 1.9 million of these in Scotland.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Yes | No | Not sure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Choice 5



All types of plastic, glass, metal cans, cartons and disposable cups. There are 2.5 billion of these in Scotland.

Yes

No

Not sure



Just now, local councils have to pay a lot of money to get rid of litter or rubbish in public bins.

If this rubbish could be part of the Deposit Return Scheme, it would save local councils money.

What kind of things will have a deposit on them?



The project is thinking about including specific drinks, like bottles of water or soft drinks that people drink when they are 'on the go'.



The drinks the Scottish Government are thinking about are:

- Soft drinks (still and fizzy)
- Soft mixer drinks, like juice that you add to water, to drink.
- Bottled water (still and fizzy)
- Fruit and vegetable juice (like smoothies)
- Milkshakes, flavoured milk and yoghurt drinks
- Spirits with an alcohol higher than 30%
- Beer, cider and wine (and the non-alcoholic versions)
- Fortified wines, liqueurs and mixers
- All other drinks, like tea, coffee, and anything else sold 'on the go' in a throw-away cup

Question 2

Do you think any drinks on the list above should **not be** included in the Deposit Return Scheme?



Yes

No

Not sure



If yes, please tell us which ones and why?

Question 3



Do you think the Deposit Return Scheme should **only** be for drinks that you can have 'on the go'?

Yes

No

Not sure

Where will you get the deposit back?



The place that people take their empty bottles and cans to get their money back is important.

The Scottish Government has three ideas where you can do this.

Question 4



Please put a cross against which choice you think bottles and cans should returned to.

Choice 1

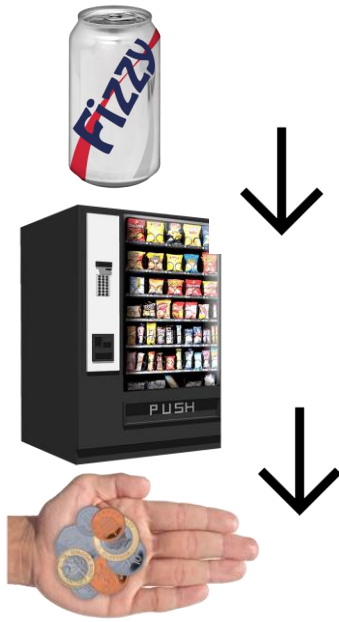
Take it back to a place that sells drinks. It does not have to be the place you bought the drink. It is likely this will be a shop.



Yes

No

Not sure



The shop would need to have a machine, like a vending machine that you put your bottles in, and it gives you money back.

Choice 2

Take your bottles and cans to a special, central drop off point. This would be one big place, instead of lots of little shops.



This would make things easier for shop owners, but it might be hard for everyone to get to.

Yes

No

Not sure

Choice 3



A mix of both shops and a central location.

Yes

No

Not sure



If you do your shopping online, it could be that the online shop has to take back your empty bottles and cans.

How do we tell people about the scheme, so everyone understands?



The Scottish Government needs people to use the scheme. To do this, the Scottish Government has to tell people how it works.

The Scottish Government has to tell people that the price of the bottle or can also include the 'deposit price'.



They could do this by putting a label on the bottle or can. Other European countries have done this.



There will need to be clear signs, that everyone can understand. These should be pictures not just words.

Question 5



Do you agree that people who make bottles and cans should put information on labels about the Deposit Return Scheme?

Yes

No

Not sure

How to make sure no one abuses the system?



People could abuse the system by taking bottles and cans back to the shop that they did not pay for.

They could then take the deposit money that someone else has paid for.



The Government would look at the number of bottles and cans that have been bought with 'deposit' money, and the number that are brought back to the shop.

If there are a lot more bottles brought back than were sold, then this will be someone abusing the system.

Question 6



Do you think this will stop people abusing the Deposit Return Scheme?

Yes

No

Not sure

How much the deposit should cost?



The amount of extra money that people spend on a bottle or can will be important.

This 'extra' money is what they can claim back when they take their empty bottle or can back.



In some other European countries, the extra money can be as low as 8p or as high as 35p.

The higher the deposit, the more likely you are to take the bottle or can back to claim your money back.



The Scottish Government has to decide if every bottle or can has the same deposit or should there be different amounts of extra money on different bottles?

Question 7

Do you think every bottle or can should have the same deposit cost?



Yes

No

Not sure

What needs to be in place for the scheme to work?



There are different ways you can take back your bottles or cans to get your deposit.

There are machines, like vending machines, where you can drop off your empty bottles, and the vending machine then gives you the money. Sometimes this is called 'automated return'.



Another way is to take back bottles and cans to the shop and hand them over to the person who works there.

The shopkeepers will get paid to help them take part in the project.



There will need to be 1 central counting centre. This will make sure that only the cans and bottles that should be in the scheme are included.



There will also be a 'bulking' centre. This is where all the returned bottles and cans will be mixed together.

Question 8



How do you think bottles and cans should be returned to get your money back?

Vending Machine

Take back to shop

How to create additional benefits from the scheme?



There are other benefits that could come from a Deposit Return Scheme.

For example, customers might want to give their deposit to charity, rather than keep it for themselves.



Or it might help the people who make the bottles and cans think about the environment.



Please tell us what this could be?

Question 9



Do you have any ideas of what other benefits this scheme could have?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please tell us what this could be?

Who is responsible for the Deposit Return Scheme?

Question 10



An organisation will be responsible for the Deposit Return Scheme.

There are 3 choices for Scotland.

Please put a cross against which choice of organisation you think can be responsible.

Choice 1



Businesses who are in the scheme would run it, but not for their own benefit or profit. This could include the people who make the drinks and the people who sell them.

Yes

No

Not sure

Choice 2



The Scottish Government asks private companies or charities to run it.

Yes

No

Not sure



Choice 3

The Scottish Government would run the scheme itself.

Yes

No

Not sure

How the scheme is checked



It is important that someone makes sure the scheme runs properly. There are different ways that this could happen.

Question 11



Please put a cross against which organisation you think can check if the Deposit Return Scheme is working.



Choice 1

An organisation like Trading Standards who make sure businesses follow the law and people who buy things are not sold faulty goods, or the Scottish Environment Protection Agency whose main work is to protect and improve Scotland's environment.

Yes

No

Not sure



Choice 2

A new organisation is set up to make sure the Deposit Return Scheme is working.

Yes

No

Not sure



Choice 3

The people running the scheme also make sure it is working properly.

Yes

No

Not sure



The places where you take back your bottles and cans will also have to be checked to make sure it works properly.



And the people who run the scheme will have to be checked. This could be done by the Scottish Government department responsible for the environment.

Working with the UK Government



The UK Government said it wants to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme and will ask people what they think later this year.

Being part of a UK system could help Scotland by:

- Having the same system as in England and Wales – so there is less fraud and customers know what to do.
- Helping shops and the drinks industry have the same system, so labels on cans and bottles can be the same.

But maybe the UK Government might not want to include all the same types of bottles or cans.



One of the benefits of having a Deposit Return Scheme in Scotland is that there would be lots of material for recycling.

This could mean that recycling companies come to Scotland to set up their factories. The Scottish Government want this to happen.



Maybe Scotland should keep all its bottles and cans for recycling and not mix them with bottles and cans collected in England and Wales.



The Scottish Government will talk to the UK Government to come up with a plan.