

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref HB/00092/20

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

24 February 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter dated 11 February 2020 requesting an update on the proposals to introduce a bottle Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in Wales.

During 2019 we consulted jointly with the UK Government and the Northern Ireland Executive on the merits of introducing a DRS in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It received over 208,000 responses and has helped in the development and detailed design of a DRS. This work is being taken forward as a joint project between Wales, Northern Ireland and England and is currently in the design phase.

We also commissioned a piece of consumer research to further understand how a DRS might be received by the public in Wales. This will also further inform the design of the DRS scheme. In summary the main findings were:

- Nearly three quarters of adult survey participants supported the idea of a DRS;
- Between 77% and 83% of survey participants reported they would use a DRS on all or most occasions;
- The findings suggested that older people, those in lower social grades and those without access to a household car may be less able to engage with a DRS for practical and financial reasons;
- 10p was the most popular amount amongst survey participants (37%); and
- An 'all-in' scheme, where all containers carried the same deposit cost, regardless of size, was considered by participants to be the most effective scheme.

This report was published in December 2019, and can be found [here](#).

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Hannah.Blythyn@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Hannah.Blythyn@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I also re-affirmed our commitment to the introduction of a DRS in Wales in our recently published consultation document *Beyond Recycling a Strategy to make the Circular Economy in Wales a Reality*. One of the key requirements of a DRS for Wales will be to ensure that it works in conjunction with our established waste collection systems and high recycling rates.

Later this year we will undertake a further joint consultation with the UK Government and the Northern Ireland Executive. The intention is to cover specific issues such as the range of container materials to be included and the possible deposit level.

In parallel work has been undertaken on the primary legislation that will allow Welsh Ministers to enact regulations to bring in a DRS. This is included in the UK Environment Bill, which is currently before the UK Parliament and expected to receive Royal Assent by Christmas 2020.

We are also facilitating a DRS trial using alternative ICT technology and have provided financial support to another DRS trial from our Circular Economy Fund.

A DRS is just one of the interventions that we are committed to that will be needed if we are to achieve our objectives of creating a circular economy, where resources are kept in use longer and waste is avoided, thereby reducing the amount of plastic litter and zero plastic is sent to landfill. We therefore also working on the introduction of an Extended Producer Responsibility system for packaging and the banning of highly littered single use plastic items.

Yours sincerely,



Hannah Blythyn AC/AM

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