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Ref: FOI2017/18000

Freedom of Information Act 2000: Revenue received from the 5 pence plastic bag charge

Thank you for your Freedom of Information enquiry of 20 October 2017.

You asked for the following information:

"What was the annual amount received to the treasury for the sale of plastic bag tax of 5p+ via retail outlets across the uk?"

I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request.

In October 2015, the Government introduced the 5p carrier bag charge on large retailers in England, which has so far resulted in 9 billion fewer carrier bags distributed since the charge was introduced.

This is not a tax and the money from the charge does not go to the Government. Therefore the Treasury has not received any income from this measure.

The Government expects retailers to give the proceeds of the scheme to environmental, educational and other good causes, but it is for them to choose what to do and which causes to support. Retailers report each year about what they do with the money from the charge. Between October 2015 and March 2017, £95 million was donated to good causes. Further information about the carrier bag charge can be found on the GOV.UK website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/carrier-bag-charge-summary-of-data-in-england>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

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