

Ministerial Meeting for Decision: Deposit Return Scheme Scope

Directorate: Environmental Quality

Timing

Date 22/06/21 - to allow time for a final submission setting out the options and discussions with devolved administrations. We need a final cross Whitehall and DA decision by mid-July to avoid impacting our wider delivery timelines for DRS & EPR.

Decisions needed (*at least one*)

Decision: Should we include “all-in without glass” (alongside “all-in” and “on to go”) as an option in the upcoming submission to agree the DRS scope?

- Summary of argument: One of the outstanding policy decisions is what size of drinks containers should be within the scope of the scheme. We consulted on two options: an all-in scheme (drinks containers up to 3l in size); or an on the go scheme (drinks containers under 750ml excluding multipacks). Both options were assumed to include PET plastic bottles, glass bottles and steel and aluminium cans.
- We have engaged with No 10 through special advisors and they have expressed a preference for an alternative option – an all-in scheme excluding glass. The key concern No 10 had raised was on consumer inconvenience – a without glass option addresses some of these concerns. Drinks in glass containers are typically consumed at home and are heavier so more difficult to transport for a return point.
- We have set out below the high-level comparison of each option.

High level comparison of options:	All-in DRS (latest estimates)	On-the-Go DRS (latest estimates)	All-in DRS excluding glass (latest estimates)
Net Present Value	£5,885m	£282m	£3,582m
Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)	1.927	1.081	1.65
Drinks containers in scope	23.7bn	7.4bn	18.2bn
Benefit: Litter disamenity reduction	£11,198m	£3,614m	£8,086m
Benefit: Greenhouse gas reductions (from 2023 to 2032)	3.52Mt CO ₂ e	0.9Mt	1.67Mt

- This option meets several key objectives of the scheme including collection of large volumes of high quality material for reprocessing and targeting commonly littered material.
- The main considerations for this option are:
 - Potential to unintentionally cause a shift in material use towards/away from glass.
 - The added cost/complexity for producers of running a DRS with a different scope to Scotland (and potentially Wales and NI), disrupting a supply chain that currently serves the UK in one batch. This includes implications on EPR. There are added complications if Wales decides to pursue a different scope to England – we recommend cross Ministerial engagement as we finalise a decision.
 - Reputational risks associated with deviating from the manifesto commitment to include glass in a DRS and not directly consulting on an all-in without glass option. However, reputational risks associated with a lack of consultation can be tackled through targeted consultation with key stakeholders.

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Clearances

Note cleared by: Chris Preston, [REDACTED]

Policy DD/ Director	Sally Randall
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If not relevant put N/A:

Legal	N/A	Finance	N/A	EU, trade & negotiations	N/A
Parliament/ legislation	N/A	Devolution	N/A	Comms	N/A
Science	N/A	Analysis	N/A	HR	N/A
Commercial	N/A	Other	N/A		

Attendees required at meeting

It is the policy team's responsibility to make sure the right people are in the room for the meeting. Private Office can also advise on some areas e.g. other Ministers' attendance.

Allocate a Chair/lead speaker for the meeting. The Deputy Director or Director who cleared this note must attend. Attendees can be any grade, and officials with relevant technical knowledge should be present. The below subheadings can be amended/removed where appropriate:

- **Chair/lead speaker:**
- Deputy Director/Director who cleared this note (**must attend**): Chris Preston, Sally Randall
- Minister/s, Perm Sec: Minister Pow
- Other senior attendees e.g. CSA, CVO:
- Policy leads: [REDACTED] (DRS), [REDACTED] (EPR)
- Legal:
- Finance:
- Analysis:
- Comms:
- Other: