

From: [REDACTED]
Sent on: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 4:54:24 PM
To: [REDACTED]
CC: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: OFFSEN readout: Waste reforms DRS and EPR
Attachments: 210616 DRS scope ministerial-meeting-for-decision-form.docx (43.96 KB),
EPR Ministerial decision EPR23 - 3.docx (35.78 KB)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 6:31 PM
To: ; Preston, Chris <[REDACTED]> ; Randall, Sally<[REDACTED]>; Hill, David<[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED]
Subject: OFFSEN readout: Waste reforms DRS and EPR

Dear all,

Thank you for discussing two of the major waste reforms - Deposit Return Scheme, and Extended Producer Responsibility - with Ministers on 22/06/2021.

DECISIONS

The Secretary of State agreed to the following:

- To roll out an 'All-in' deposit return scheme that excludes glass.
- [REDACTED]

ACTIONS

- **DRS** team to develop the Government response to the consultation, sharing with SpAds & private office, along with a comms plan. SpAds have given the steer to proceed to write-round on the response as soon as possible.
- **DRS** team to advise private office on Ministerial engagement with the DAs.
- [REDACTED]

READOUT

Item 1: [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Item 2: DRS scope

- [REDACTED] recapped on the background of the last 18 months' conversations with Ministers and No10. He said that No10 had recently stated a preference for all-in without glass, and that the policy team also think this is a good option. It means around 18 billion drinks containers will be collected, has better litter results than on-the-go (and is better than on-the-go overall), and could be easier for consumers to understand by just excluding glass from the scheme. Including glass had always been controversial with the glass industry, and the alcohol industry and some retailers have also been cautious.
- [REDACTED] listed some points to note – firstly Scotland will have glass in their scheme, so there could be some increased complexity for producers. There may also be a point about material switching i.e. consumers might start choosing more products with glass, which might cause producers to switch materials. However there currently isn't data to support this. Finally there is a reputational risk in excluding glass, since the manifesto commitment stated glass would be included, and the most recent consultation also focused on all-in or on-the-go, but didn't specify an option that would exclude glass. We would need to make sure the Government response sets out our reasoning clearly.
- Further info on the DAs – NI sound receptive to the idea, since ROI is excluding glass in their scheme. Wales stated a preference to include glass, but officials have discussed and they are thinking through further. Some Ministerial engagement there might be good.
- On targets – since glass would now fall under EPR not DRS, we would need slightly different targets, with a few complexities to iron out, and with some of the DAs' targets too.
- SoS agreed that he thinks this sounds like a neat solution to the concerns that have been raised. DRS is primarily driven by plastics concerns. People are also more likely to consume plastic & cans when out and about, and glass when at home. We just need to address some of the slight consequential concerns. Minister Pow agreed that glass is one of the most successful kerbside collections, and is also heavy for people to carry back to return points.
- Minister Pow raised a separate query about aluminium and multi-packs. [REDACTED] replied that there is a question whether to have a deposit on individual cans in a multipack, as this would make the pack more expensive. The aluminium industry are concerned this would make people switch to large plastic bottles instead. There could instead be a variable rate with smaller deposits on cans. Research is developing but this decision would ultimately sit with the scheme administrator.
- SoS asked whether we could still have the option to include glass later on. [REDACTED] said we could but that we'd need to retrofit the return machines which would incur costs.
- Based on the above SoS said let's crack on with all-in without glass.

ATTACHMENTS

Briefing notes for meeting.

[REDACTED]