

The Deposit Return Scheme & the Impact on Local Authorities

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What is a Deposit Return Scheme & How Does it Work?

- A system where consumers are charged an up-front deposit when they buy a drink in a container that is 'in-scope' of the scheme
- The deposit can be redeemed when the empty container is returned to a designated return point



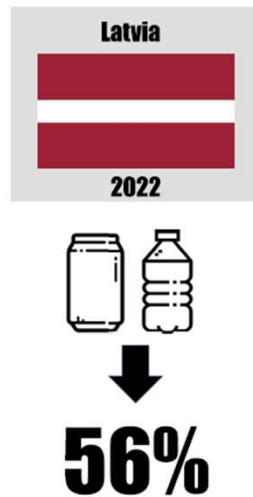
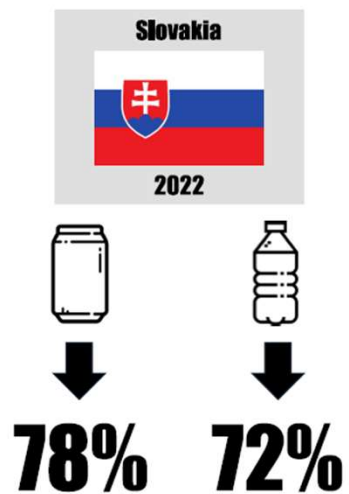
UNCLASSIFIED Organisational

What are the Benefits of a DRS?

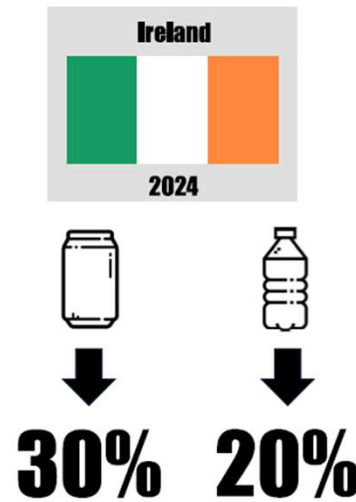
- An increase in recycling rates of the in-scope containers
- Improved material quality
- Reduced littering of the in-scope containers



DRS countries see rapid and substantial reductions in beverage container litter, often within the first year

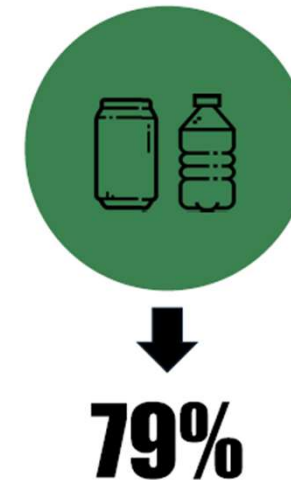


Coastal sites
2021-2023



National survey shows ~50% fall
in bottle can prevalence across
500+ sites

Deposit containers



Non-deposit containers



Who will manage the scheme for the UK?

- 'Exchange for Change' are a non-profit, business led organization appointed by the government to develop and deliver the scheme. They will act as the Deposit Management Organisation (DMO)
- Not for profit organisation. Created by the industry, for the industry
- Appointed to deliver a scheme that is practical, inclusive and works for everyone



What Items are included in the scheme?

<i>Included</i>	<i>Excluded</i>
• Items completely or mainly from aluminium, steel or polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic (plastic bottles and aluminium cans) • (PET is polyethylene terephthalate).	• Single use items
• Items between 150 millilitres (mm) and 3 litres (L)	• Made from high-density (HDPE) such as plastic milk bottles
• Items that are likely to be used only once or for a short period of time	• containers that are used to hold liquid medicines (cough syrup), flavour enhancers or sweeteners that are added to drinks (syrups or hot sauces for example

Scheme Labelling

- All items **MUST** display the scheme barcode and logo to be eligible
- You will be unable to deposit any items without them
- A proof of purchase is **NOT** required to return an item



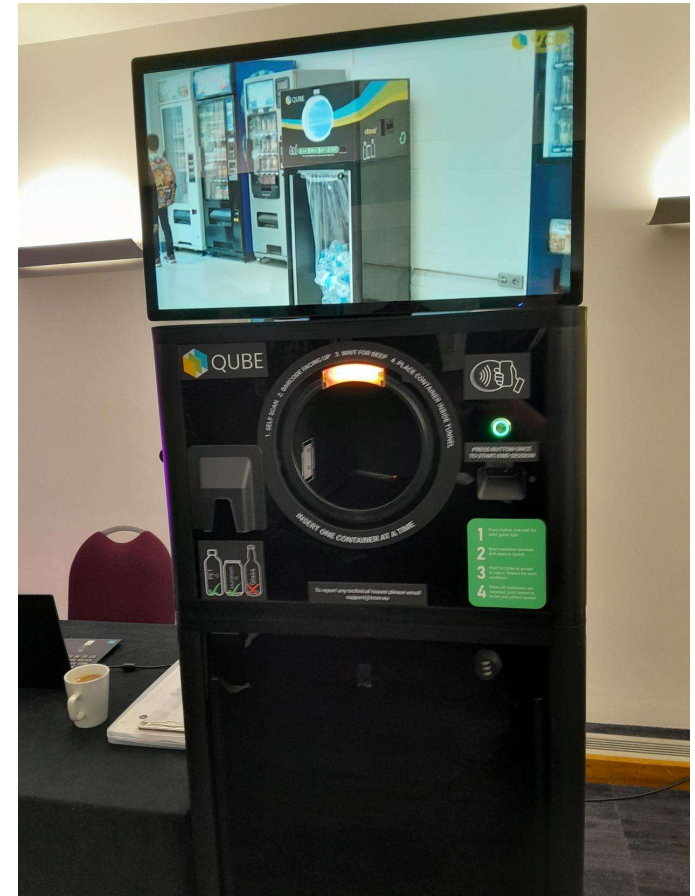
MANUAL RETURN POINTS

- Items are returned over the counter at supermarkets, convenience shops such as newsagents
- These premises that sell the items within the scheme must act as a return point
- Premises with urban areas are NOT required to host a return point if they are sized under 100 metres squared, but could host a return point if they wanted to



AUTOMATIC RETURN POINTS – REVERSE VENDING MACHINES

- **The consumer places an in-scope item that displays a barcode and logo of the scheme into the machine**
- **The barcode is then scanned and weighed by the machine**
- **The machine then provides a paper receipt that can be used in store to redeem for cash**

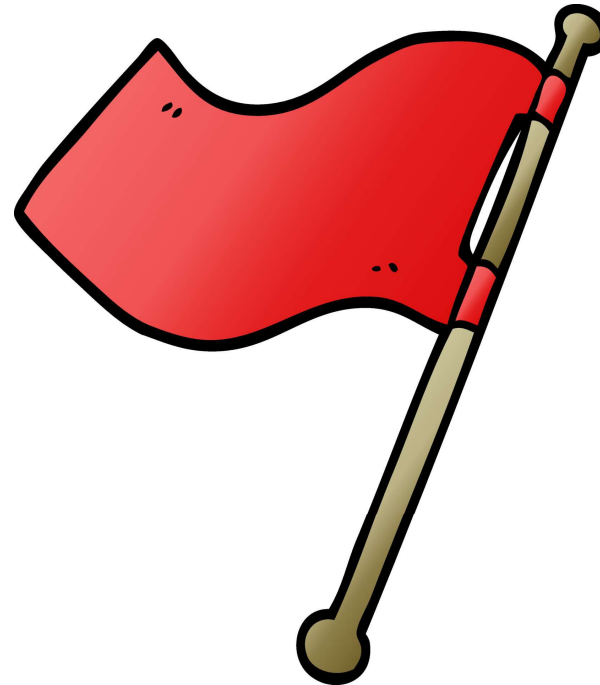


The UK Nations

Country	Launch Date	Materials Accepted	Material Size Accepted
England	1 st October 2027	PET bottles & metal cans	150ml – 3 litres
Wales	Currently have no scheme operator	PET bottles, metal cans but also includes glass	150ml – 3 litres
Scotland	1 st October 2027	PET bottles & metal cans	150ml – 3 litres
Northern Ireland	1 st October 2027	PET bottles & metal cans	150ml – 3 litres

Concerns with the DRS

- Cost of living crisis
- Residents with busy lives
- Initial bad experiences
- Waiting times at return points
- Accessibility
- Fraud risk
- Re-educating residents
- The deposit is on the wrong items!
- Issues with the reverse vending machines
- Who's responsible for educating residents about the scheme?



Challenges Facing Local Authorities & What we Should be Doing

- Valuable materials collected by councils will be lost to the scheme
- Council recycling rates will decrease
- Communications with contractors
- Budgets
- Street cleansing teams
- On the go recycling containers
- Push back from residents



Thank you

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