Deposit Return Scheme Consultation

This document provides examples of how the Deposit Return Scheme can work

Easy Read

Examples of Deposit Return Schemes

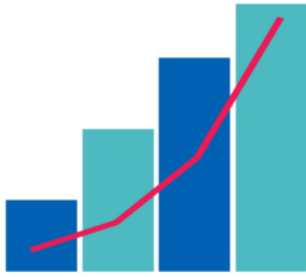This paper has 4 examples of how a Deposit Return Scheme could work.

The 4 examples are based on:

1. Fairness for all types of people
2. Accessibility for all types of people
3. Creating jobs for people who are not in work
4. Creating chances to raise money for charities.

A group of interested people were asked which of these 4 things would make the most difference to a Deposit Return Scheme.

Accessibility and fairness were the most important things.

Each example has a score. The higher the score, the better the Scottish Government think the idea will be.

Example 1 – Take empty bottles and cans back to drop off points

This example is for bottles and cans to be taken back to drop off points, and not to shops or newsagents.

The drop off points would be in larger towns and you could take back cans, plastic bottles and glass bottles to get your deposit money back.

The drop off point would be a recycling point, like the ones you see in supermarket car parks.

In this example, the shop that sells you the bottle or can wouldn't take it back. You would have to take it to a drop off point.

In this example, an organisation would need to run the scheme. They would have to run the drop off points, collect the money, pay all the shop owners and collect all the bottles and cans for recycling.

This is the way the system works in North America and Australia. They recycle 60% of their drinks bottles and cans this way.
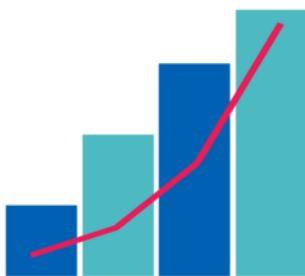
This system is good for shop-keepers as they do not have to do anything.

But, the drop off points would need to be in places that everyone can get to

This example got the lowest score of the 4 examples because having to go to drop off points might not be accessible for everyone.

The score for this example was 56.

We think this example will have a slight benefit to the Scottish economy.

Example 2 Take back to drop off points and shops (including cartons and cups)

This example would have more drop off points. Deposit return machines would be placed near any shop selling drinks.

You would take your empty bottle or can to the drop off point or to the shop.

More types of plastic bottles, metal cans, drinks cartons, glass bottles and coffee cups could be recycled in this way.

The companies who make the drinks and shops would need to work together in this example. Some of the deposit money would pay for people to run the recycling scheme.
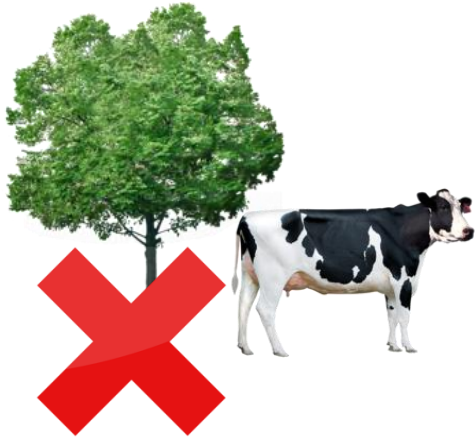
The difference between Example 1 and Example 2 is that in Example 2 is that shops would be involved in recycling.

This new organisation would control the drop-off points, collect in the money, make sure people get their deposit money back and that all the things for recycling are picked up.
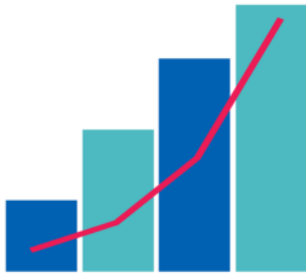
This is the way recycling is done in California, Maine and British Columbia where more than 80% of drinks containers are recycled.

This example is good because more containers are returned, there are more return points and shops are not involved too much.

There could still be problems in getting access to recycling points in rural areas.

The score for this example was 65.

We think this example will make a slight difference to the Scottish economy.

Example 3 – take back to any place of purchase

Any shop that sells drinks in bottles or cans would have to take the bottles and cans back. People would then get their deposit money back from any shop selling that type of drink when they returned the empty container.

There would be a lot more places where people could recycle and get their deposit money back.

Bigger shops could have machines to collect the bottles and cans and return people's deposits. Smaller shops could give people their deposit money back over the shop counter.

This example would recycle some kinds of plastic bottles, metal cans and glass bottles.

Like Examples 1 and 2, the people making the drinks and the shops selling them would need to work together to make sure the scheme is run properly.

Some of the deposit money would pay for an organisation and people to run the recycling scheme.

Shops that sell drinks in bottles or cans have to pay in the drinks deposit money they get, and they are given the money back again when they pay back customers deposits.
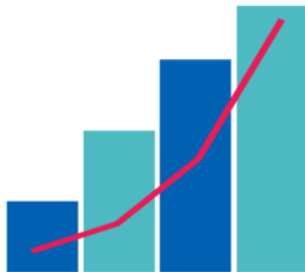
This is the way they recycle in Scandinavia and the Baltic States. More than 85% of drinks containers are recycled there.

The most bottles and cans are recycled in this example. This is what the Government wants to do.

It would make more work and take up more space for shops, but they would get money back to pay for this work.

The score for this example was 83.

We think this example will make a lot of difference to the Scottish economy.

Example 4 – take back to any place where drinks were bought, including bottles, cans, cartons and cups

This is nearly the same as Example 3. You can take your empties back to any shop. It doesn't have to be the same one you bought the drink from.

But Example 4 collects more types of drinks containers like fizzy drink cans, bottled water, milk bottles, drink cartons, glass bottles and coffee cups.

It would be run by an organisation with leaders from the drinks companies and from the shops that sell the drinks.

Any shop that sells drinks in disposable containers has to have a deposit return service. People can then get their deposit money back in any shop selling these drinks.
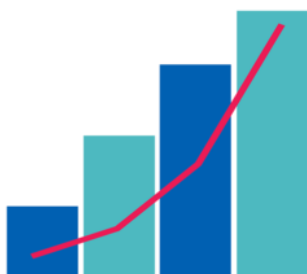
This would be a new way of recycling. No other country collects all these different type of bottles and containers. This example would mean more containers of all types would be collected.

This example would mean much less litter lying around. It is more difficult to recycle some items but separating them this way makes it easier.

Example 4 gives the best accessibility as there would be more places to return your containers.

The score for this example was 84.

We think this example will make a big difference to the Scottish economy.

Question 1

Which example do you think is best for Scotland?

Example 1 ☐

Example 2 ☐

Example 3 ☐

Example 4 ☐

Please tell us why you chose that example?