



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WASTE DISPOSAL OFFICERS

NAWDO press release – Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

[Friday 22nd November 2024]

[Start]

Following the announcement by the Welsh Government that it will no longer be a part of the UK-wide Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), NAWDO is calling for the Government to pause the scheme and instead focus its resources on successfully delivering other important policies such as packaging EPR and Simpler Recycling.

DRS has now caused complications in two of the devolved nations, following the collapse of the Scottish proposals in 2023 and the recent withdrawal by the Welsh Government. Inconsistency in the scope of materials included in the DRS in different parts of the UK creates problems, and a failure to agree a common position is continuing to generate uncertainty throughout the value chain.

NAWDO remains of the view that a DRS should be considered only once the Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) and Simpler Recycling regimes have been put in place and allowed to demonstrate their impact across the supply chain and resources sector.

If the DRS remains a part of Government policy, NAWDO insists that the packaging EPR regulations should be amended to ensure that the exclusion for drinks containers only continues to apply in nations which have actually implemented a DRS.

Government must also urgently clarify how the financial impacts of a DRS on local authorities will be addressed, including identifying a common-sense route to accessing unclaimed credits to cover the costs of managing drinks containers that continue to be disposed of through municipal collection and treatment services.

[End]



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About us:

NAWDO, the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers, is the primary network and voice for local authorities with statutory responsibility for waste treatment and disposal. NAWDO was formed in 1992 and its members include London Boroughs, Metropolitan, Unitary, Joint Waste Disposal Authorities, Waste Partnerships and County Councils from all UK regions (except Scotland) to keep up to date with the fast-changing waste and resources industry. Through NAWDO local authorities are provided with presentation on regional, national, international and strategic forums and groups to inform, influence and collaborate with key stakeholders and policy makers. NAWDO is entirely run by volunteers and through its Policy and Advisory (P&A) Committee it sets the direction of the organisation with member engagement. With over 80 members NAWDO represents around 80% of all local authorities with waste disposal duties in the UK. NAWDO holds quarterly meetings where its members, central government, regulators, waste industry and other affiliated groups discuss and debate challenges and current developments in the waste and resources industry, helping shape and influence (future) decisions and policy. It also provides an online forum where members can openly discuss and debate current and relevant issues facing senior officers with waste treatment and disposal portfolios.

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