



<b>Subject:</b>	Response received from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs re Deposit Return Scheme
<b>Date:</b>	4th April, 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To note the correspondence received from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 7th February, 2023, it had agreed to write to DEARA to express concern at the delay in rolling out the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS).</p> <p>A response had been received from Ms Katrina Godfrey, Permanent Secretary (attached as appendix 1). In her correspondence she stated that the Department was working in partnership with its counterpart departments in England and Wales to deliver a joint Deposit Return Scheme that would operate in all three jurisdictions.</p> <p>The Permanent Secretary also referred to the timescales for the implementation, explaining that these had been agreed by Ministers and had been designed to ensure that they were both ambitious and realistic.</p> <p>She stressed that the timescales had been informed by formal consultation on the most appropriate timeframe for delivery of the scheme and by further stakeholder engagement and evaluation of delivery. This had led to the decision that the DRS for England, Wales and Northern Ireland should start from 1st October 2025.</p> <p>She advised that the full consultation could be found at <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/introducing-deposit-return-scheme-england-wales-and-northern-ireland">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/introducing-deposit-return-scheme-england-wales-and-northern-ireland</a> and the government response at <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/deposit-return-scheme-summary-2021-consultation-responses-and-publication-government-response">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/deposit-return-scheme-summary-2021-consultation-responses-and-publication-government-response</a>.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 – E-mail response from Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.</p>

