

FACT SHEET

DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEMES - A MAP OF THE UK & IRELAND

WHAT IS A DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME?



Under a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) an additional fee, or deposit, is placed on beverage containers that can be returned to the customer when they take empty containers back to store or a return point for recycling.

INCONSISTENCY - WHY ARE THE SCHEMES DIFFERENT?

Waste management in the UK is a devolved issue, this has led to a lack of consistency across the board.

Between the UK and Ireland there are now a minimum of 4 different proposed Deposit Return Schemes that will collect different materials.



NATION	LAUNCH DATE	DEPOSIT LEVEL	CONTAINER VOLUME	MATERIALS			
				PET (PLASTIC)	GLASS	ALUMINIUM	STEEL
SCOTLAND	October 2025	£0.20 (subject to change)	100ml - 3L	✓	✗	✓	✓
IRELAND	February 2024	€0.15 (<=500ml) €0.25 (>=500ml)	0ml - 3L	✓	✗	✓	✓
WALES	October 2025	Undecided	50ml - 3L	✓	✓	✓	✓
ENGLAND + NORTHERN IRELAND	October 2025	Undecided	50ml - 3L	✓	✗	✓	✓

Please note that the details contained within this table were correct at the time of publication (June 2023) but could be subject to change.