

Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe  
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil  
Department of Communications,  
Climate Action & Environment



Ms Anne Maria Walsh  
Corporate Services Department  
Kilkenny County Council  
County Hall  
John Street  
Kilkenny  
Co Kilkenny  
R95 A39T



02 December 2019

Case: CCAE-MO-04851-2019

Dear Ms Walsh

Many thanks for your letter dated the 12th November 2019 last.

I am aware of the need to address plastic waste as a priority. The government is determined to reduce the excessive use of plastics. As a first step, the purchase of single use plastics has been banned throughout the public service. We have committed to extending restrictions in Single Use Plastics nationwide. We are determined to increase recycling of plastics from 36% now to 55% in the coming years and to, along with other European colleagues, phase out non-recyclable plastics entirely. I have ambitious plans for the coming years, namely:

- Banning certain single use plastics;
- Banning the use of non-recyclable plastics,
- Increasing our recycling rate for plastics from 36% to 55% (and 90% for plastic bottles),

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D'fhonn is go gcuirtear feidhmeanna na Roinne i gcrích, agus seirbhísí ar fáil, ceanglaíonn an Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil go soláthródh custaiméir sonraí pearsanta áirithe. Féadfar do sonraí pearsanta a mhalartú le Ranna Rialtais eile agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile in imhoisce áirithe de réir dlí. Tugtar sonraí lomlána sa bhFógra um

Príobháideacht Sonraí atá ar fáil ar [www.dcae.gov.ie](http://www.dcae.gov.ie), nó i bhfoirm chruachóipe arna iarraidh sin.



- Requiring plastic bottle manufacturers to use a minimum of 30% recycled material

I am now commencing an implementation strategy to achieve these objectives.

In January this year, I announced a national study to consider how we can deliver a 90% collection target for single use beverage containers, including plastic bottles, in Ireland. This review will examine the possibility of introducing a Deposit and Return Scheme and how this might operate in an Irish context.

A Deposit and Return Scheme is one option proposed for EU member states to consider under the EU Single Use Plastic (SUP) proposal, published in June 2019.

As part of this strategy, new laws are being introduced in Ireland and throughout Europe to target the 10 single-use plastic items found most often on Europe's beaches and seas. The full text of the SUP Directive which sets out all the measures contained therein is available at the following link:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019L0904&from=EN>

It is clear that more needs to be understood about the implementation of a Deposit and Return Scheme in Ireland, including the likely costs and the impacts on our existing, successful collection system. Ireland is currently achieving its EU waste targets and exceeding the overall target for plastic at 36%, while the current EU target is 22.5%.

The study that has been commissioned will look at the current Irish waste collection system, international best practice in this area and how Ireland can bridge the gap from the targets already being achieved to the new, higher target set out in the EU SUP proposal. This is currently being reviewed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Richard Bruton', is located below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

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Richard Bruton, T.D.  
Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment