

NIVO – Report on Proposed Bottle Return Scheme – May 2018

➤ Background facts

- Soft drink and water bottles available from vending machines are manufactured from a type of plastic known as PET (Polyethylene terephthalate). It can be and is widely recycled.
- The recycled PET becomes rPET. A significant proportion of the bottles currently in use include a proportion of rPET. Currently, the volume of recovered PET bottles is insufficient to facilitate a higher level, but this is being addressed. rPET is more expensive than PET.
- Bottle return schemes are not generally used in countries where a kerb side waste collection scheme is in place (as in the UK). There is concern that bins could be raided in search of bottles if they have a deposit value on them.
- The levels of CO₂ created in the manufacture and distribution of PET and rPET bottles is significantly less than with conventional glass vessels.

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▶ Other frequently asked questions

- **Q - Do you believe a BRS will be introduced in the UK?**
- **A - Yes – The Scottish Parliament has already started the process and we expect the rest of the country will follow.**
- **Q – When?**
- **A – No exact details are available, but The Scottish scheme is going through a consultation process at this time**
- **Q – Can we do anything in the meantime to get our bottles recycled?**
- **A – Yes. You can join our Recycling Plan programme and have them collected for recycling**

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- ▶ What can individual companies do? Possible options
 1. Join a closed loop, reverse vending or collection scheme.

Negatives	Positives
Not available throughout the UK at this time	For plastic bottles and cans, potentially issues a reward voucher or token.
Set-up and monthly charges apply.	Can also deal with plastic and paper cups
Need to buy a reverse vending machine in some cases	Fun and educational
	Demonstrates good corporate social responsibility