

The Scottish Government has today (Wednesday 27 June, 2018) announced the launch of a public consultation on a deposit return scheme for Scotland.

Zero Waste Scotland has conducted more than 120 one-to-one interviews and 'strategic conversations' with stakeholders to date, as part of an extensive period of stakeholder engagement on deposit return.

That stakeholder engagement – with retailers, manufacturers, councils, community groups, and more – has enabled Zero Waste Scotland to bring together a comprehensive suite of documents to support the consultation. These can be viewed on the **Scottish Government website**.

We are delighted to see this work now progress to public consultation stage. Scotland's planned deposit return scheme is a landmark in the nation's circular economy journey, with the potential to drive inward investment and create jobs in Scotland at the same time as improving recycling and reducing litter.

We want to encourage as many people as possible to have their say before the consultation closes in September, and over the summer Zero Waste Scotland will be hosting a series of events aiming to raise awareness of Scotland's commitment to introduce a deposit return scheme and engage the public on the matter.

The range of events will vary, including those in communities, at major summer events, in areas of high footfall, and some organised in partnership with schools and businesses. The range of events delivered will aim to ensure everyone has the opportunity to learn more and know how to contribute their views to the public consultation.

Zero Waste Scotland is actively looking for stakeholders to tell us what materials they need in order to explain and promote deposit return to their members, service users and staff – and what they can do to help us spread the word across Scotland. If you would like to work with Zero Waste Scotland to host a public engagement event, or have an idea to contribute, please email drs@zerowastescotland.org.uk

Zero Waste Scotland has also produced a stakeholder pack, which is available on the **Zero Waste Scotland website.**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has shared their thoughts on deposit return thus far, and to reiterate the call to make sure your organisation's views are represented. By responding to the public consultation, you will be helping to shape the best possible deposit return scheme for Scotland.

The public consultation on deposit return for Scotland is available at on the **Scottish Government website.**

Iain Gulland

Chief Executive Zero Waste Scotland