



Public support for Deposit Return Systems across the UK

Drinks containers are a blight on our coasts – Marine Conservation Society (MCS) litter surveys show that drinks related litter make up around 10% of litter found at the beach. Bottle tops and plastic bottles are frequently among the top 10 litter items found on UK beaches with an average of 12.5 plastic drinks bottles found for every 100m surveyed. We want to tackle this issue, and Deposit Return Systems have been shown to reduce litter and improve recycling in many countries. Therefore MCS is calling for Deposit return systems (DRS) across the UK for single-use drinks bottles (plastic and glass) and cans to reduce litter on our beaches.

How would it work?

For every drink container you buy, you would pay a small deposit. When you return the drinks container to the retailer or collection point - you get your money back in full. Such systems can reduce littering, increase high quality recycling, and reduce costs for local authorities. Like the carrier bag charge, it's a simple idea that can have an immediate effect.

Do the public support it?

Yes! 73% of the British public, questioned in a YouGov poll for MCS, support the introduction of deposit return systems (DRS) across the UK for single-use drinks bottles (plastic and glass) and cans. That's almost 3 out of 4 people, with most support coming from those aged over 45 years.

Full results:

Question asked: To what extent would you support or oppose the following in the UK? Deposit return systems (DRS) across the UK for single-use drinks bottles (plastic and glass) and cans (i.e. you pay a deposit for your bottle or can and when you return it to a collection point to be recycled, you get your deposit back in full).

	Total	Gender		Age					Social Grade		Region		
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	ABC1	C2DE	England	Wales	Scotland
Strongly support	40%	39%	40%	33%	36%	36%	43%	43%	43%	36%	40%	44%	38%
Support	33%	33%	34%	29%	30%	34%	32%	36%	33%	33%	34%	27%	32%
Neither support nor oppose	15%	16%	13%	17%	17%	15%	14%	13%	14%	16%	14%	10%	19%
Oppose	6%	5%	7%	9%	7%	7%	6%	4%	5%	7%	6%	8%	4%
Strongly oppose	3%	4%	3%	2%	4%	4%	2%	3%	2%	4%	3%	7%	4%
Don't know	4%	3%	4%	9%	6%	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	4%	4%	2%

Net: Support	73%	72%	74%	62%	66%	71%	75%	79%	76%	69%	73%	71%	70%
Net: Oppose	9%	9%	9%	12%	11%	11%	8%	7%	7%	11%	9%	15%	9%

Survey Methodology: This survey was conducted by YouGov, on behalf of the Marine Conservation Society. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2137 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 7th-8th August 2017. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+). YouGov plc make every effort to provide representative information. All results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to statistical errors normally associated with sample-based information.