



Briefing 20-86

November 2020

Introducing market restrictions on single-use plastic items in Scotland consultation

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland. For information only: England, Northern Ireland and Wales

Key Issues:

Scottish Government has released a consultation on introducing market restrictions on single-use plastic items in Scotland. This would effectively be a ban on the most commonly littered single-use plastic items found on European beaches.

The consultation closes on 4 January 2021.

The consultation can be completed by visiting [here](#), the consultation paper is available [here](#) and the environmental paper is available [here](#).

1.0 Introduction

Scotland has made significant progress in recent years towards tackling the negative impact that plastic waste has on our communities, oceans, rivers and land ecosystems. Scotland has already undertaken many measures such as introducing market restrictions on plastic microbeads and plastic-stemmed cotton buds, the levy on single-use carrier bags, the establishment of the new deposit return scheme for drinks containers, which is underway, as well as the establishment of the Expert Panel on Environmental Charges and

Other Measures, the UK-wide producer responsibility scheme for packaging, plastic being presented for separate collections and being a signatory on many different commitments to creating a circular economy for plastics. However, if the country is to see further progress on phasing out the use of the single-use plastics, the Government believes that more action needs to be taken to shift away from our throwaway culture.

A single-use plastic product under the SUP Directive are products made from oxo-degradable plastic and fishing gear containing plastic. For the purpose of the EU Single-Use Plastics Directive (EU) 2019/904, a single-use plastic product is “a product that is made wholly or partly from plastic and is not conceived, designed or placed on the market to accomplish, within its life span, multiple trips or rotations by being returned to a producer for refill or re-used for the same purpose for which it has been conceived”.

The consultation is open for responses until 4 January 2021, with the intention to legislate for these changes in 2021 subject to the outcome of the consultation.

2.0 Consultation questions

The consultation focuses on the potential to introduce market restrictions for many different single-use plastic products, following on from the restriction placed on plastic-stemmed cotton buds.

1(a). Do you support the proposal to introduce a market restriction in Scotland on each of the single-use plastic items listed and all oxo-degradable products? (Yes/No)

- Single-use plastic cutlery (forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks)
- Single-use plastic plates (plates, trays/platters, bowls)
- Single-use plastic straws
- Single-use plastic beverage stirrers
- Single-use plastic balloon sticks
- Single-use food containers made of expanded polystyrene

- Single-use cups and other beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene, including their covers, caps and lids
- All oxo-degradable products

1(b). Please give reasons and where possible provide evidence to support the view expressed in response to Question 1(a).

1(c). Do you support the introduction of a restriction on the manufacturing of the specified single-use plastic items, excluding those for which exemptions will be introduced? Please give reasons.

2. To your knowledge, are any of the oxo-degradable products identified in this document present on the Scottish market? Are there any additional oxo-degradable products available on the Scottish market that we have not identified? Please provide evidence to support your answer.

3. The SUP Directive includes limited exemptions for single-use plastic straws and balloon sticks. Are there other exemptions we should consider in relation to the market restrictions being proposed? Please give reasons.

4. How can we make sure disabled people have access to plastic straws if they require them for medical reasons or to support independent living, whilst at the same time restricting wider access for environmental purposes in a way that fulfils the SUP Directive requirements?

5. This consultation highlights other items that the Scottish Government intends to consider market restrictions for in future (plastic wet wipes, plastic tampon applicators and those other products contained in the UK Plastics Pact's list of items to be eliminated by end of 2020 which are not currently subject to existing or proposed market restrictions). Would you support the consideration of market restrictions on these items or any other items we haven't listed? Please provide reasons and evidence where possible.

6. Taking into account the accompanying Impact Assessments, can you identify any environmental, economic or social impacts we have not identified when developing the proposals contained in this consultation? Please give reasons.

7. Do you believe the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in changes to the market or wider economy that are not fully accounted for through this consultation? Please give reasons.

8. Do you have any other comments that you would like to make, relevant to the subject of this consultation that you have not covered in your answers to other questions?

3.0 APSE Comment

APSE encourages our membership to respond to the above consultation to ensure that Scottish local authorities' views are considered in the formulation of Scotland's response to dealing with single-use plastics. APSE's membership has already taken an active role in the deposit return scheme, which has been featured at several high-profile events. APSE's members have also taken an active part in re-designing waste systems to support the collection of single-use plastics, so it is important that they engage as fully as possible with the consultation as the outcome could have a significant effect on the amounts of single-use plastics entering local authority waste streams.

For more information and discussions around this and other waste and recycling services please [click here](#) to keep up to date on our latest Scotland Waste & Recycling advisory group meetings. Also for information on the recent topics discussed at this advisory group please [click here](#)

Reminder: APSE has set up a COVID-19 Information Hub to deal with frontline service issues as they arise, ensuring greater resilience and learning between each other during this difficult time. You can access this hub by [clicking here](#) and you can also join our WhatsApp Support Network by [clicking here](#).

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