



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ97775 and 97777

Janet Finch Saunders MS

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20 February 2026

Dear Janet,

With apologies for the delay, due to an administrative oversight in my office, please see my responses to your Written Questions:

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): What specific elements of the Welsh Government's proposed deposit return scheme will producers be exempt from if they already qualify for the low volume exemption under the extended producer responsibility for packaging scheme? (WQ97775)

Huw Irranca Davies: In line with the long-term position of all four governments, products will either fall under the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) or Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme (EPR), but not both. The exemptions to the DRS in Wales for producers whose glass drink containers currently fall under the EPR scheme for packaging are intended to align with the EPR low-volume threshold. These producers would therefore be exempt from the following elements of the Welsh DRS:

- Paying DRS producer fees to the Deposit Management Organisation (DMO)
- Applying and managing deposits on in-scope drink containers, so that they would not need to charge or account for the DRS deposit on their sales.
- Meeting DRS labelling requirements, such as adding scheme logos, return codes or other DRS identifiers to packaging.

As is the case currently under EPR, low-volume exempt producers will need to register and provide basic data, so that the DMO and regulators can verify their exemption status.

Importantly, small producers will still however be able to benefit from reuse on a voluntary basis, which can help SMEs reduce packaging costs and demonstrate their sustainability credentials to their customers without incurring DRS fees.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Under the Welsh Government's proposed deposit return scheme will small producers that already qualify for the low volume exemption under the extended producer responsibility packaging scheme continue to pay the extended producer responsibility packaging fees which are passed onto them through the supply chain? (WQ97777)

Huw Irranca-Davies: In scope drinks containers that fall within the Deposit Return Scheme in Wales will be outside of the scope of the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme. The exemptions to the DRS in Wales for producers whose glass drinks containers currently fall under the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for packaging are intended to align with the low-volume threshold in the EPR scheme.

By adopting reusable packaging, small businesses will however have the opportunity to reduce their exposure to material costs and variability, whilst reducing their reliance on single-use packaging.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs