

Timetable for consideration: The Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Bill – updated

October 2022

On 20 September 2022, the Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Bill was introduced in the Senedd. Under Standing Order 26.9, Business Committee agreed not to refer the Bill to a responsible committee for scrutiny of its general principles.

The Welsh Government has requested an expedited timetable for Senedd scrutiny of this Bill on the basis that: there is an urgent need to implement a ban in Wales on the most commonly littered single use plastics, and to keep up with equivalent bans in the rest of the UK; and, due to its intention to use the Bill as a practical example to support its case in relation to the UK Internal Market Act in the Supreme Court.

The Business Committee has consulted with the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on the timetable for the Bill. Following discussions, on 15 August 2022 the Welsh Government had published a draft Bill and a summary of responses to a related consultation undertaken between 30 July and 22 October 2020. This enabled the Committee to run its own consultation relating to the draft



Bill and subsequently to hold oral evidence sessions on the Bill as introduced, including with the Minister for Climate Change.

On the basis of the scrutiny that the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee has been able to conduct in the time available to it, and given the specific circumstances pertaining to the Bill, Business Committee agreed on 27 September 2022 not to refer the Bill to a responsible Committee for scrutiny of its general principles.

At the same meeting, Business Committee agreed that Stage 2 proceedings should be completed by 12 November 2022.

On 11 October 2022, Business Committee agreed to refer the Bill to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee for Stage 2 proceedings, following agreement of the general principles by the Senedd.