

**Welsh Cross Party Group – Small Shops: Deposit Return Scheme**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 12:15 – 13:15: Microsoft Teams (Online)**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
Edward Woodall	ACS	EW
Daniel Askew	ACS	DA
Willem Van De Ven	ACS	WV
Julie James	Minister for Climate Change	JJ
Rhys Thomas	MS Support Staff for Sam Rowlands	RT
Tom Perry	MS Support Staff for Tom Giffard	TP
Vince Tenby	Tenby Stores	VT
Ruth Buckley-Salmon	National Federation Sub-Postmasters	
Robin Lewis	MS Support Staff for Vikki Howells	RL
Vikki Howells	MS for Cynon Valley	VH
Howard Davies	Welsh Government	HD
John Halliday	British Independent Retailers Association	JH
Gwen Patterson	Federation of Independent Retailers	GP
Philip Fenton	British Glass	PF
Laura McCormack	Booksellers Association	LC
Arianne Fleming	British Glass	AF
Rosina Robson	NHBF	RR
Eleanor O'Brien	British Glass	EB
Benjamin Sullivan	Private Secretary to the Minister for Climate Change	BS
Sarah Horner	Welsh Government	SH
Seonag MacKinnon	Federation of Independent Retailers	SM
Ioan Bellin	MS Support Staff for Rhys ab Owen	IB
Russell George	MS for Montgomeryshire	RG

**1. Apologies**

Andrew Goodacre – British Independent Retailers Association

Lucy Reece Raybould – British Footwear Association

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

VH welcomed attendees and explained to attendees the programme of activity for the CPG.

### **3. Local Shops and the Deposit Return Scheme**

EW outlined how the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) works, the latest developments in relation to DRS in Wales, key considerations for retailers implementing the scheme, as well as recommendations for the Welsh Government to ensure it works effectively.

### **4. Welsh Government's Plans for the Deposit Return Scheme**

JJ introduced herself to attendees, gave a brief overview of the latest developments in Welsh Government on DRS and asked attendees to put forward any important questions on the Scheme.

### **5. Question and Answer Session with Minister**

VM highlighted to the Minister key concerns on the cost of implementing DRS in stores and the return of investment. JJ and HD responded by highlighting the Welsh Government's ongoing activity to help gather feedback and input from businesses to make sure the Scheme is fit for purpose and appealing for businesses to implement.

EW recommended to JJ that the Welsh Government take serious consideration to the strategic mapping of DRS to ensure it is effectively implemented in local areas for customers returning items and businesses wanting to take part in the Scheme. HD acknowledged EW's recommendation and stated the Welsh Government is spending considerable effort in engaging with wider stakeholder groups and research to develop an effective strategic mapping operation.

RM asked JJ how the Welsh Government will deliver and clearly communicate to retailers upcoming policy announcements on DRS in light of the separate breadth of current and upcoming environmental regulations impact businesses which are often confused by which regulations apply to them. HD highlighted existing Welsh Government resources for businesses to use which include guidance and information on current and upcoming policies.

### **6. Closing Remarks**

VH summarised the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.