



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

Deapirtment fur

Infrastructure

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Regional Planning Governance & Legislation

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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

28 April 2026

Dear Colleagues

Planning: General Permitted Development – The Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Department for Infrastructure has made a Statutory Rule under powers conferred by section 32 and 247(6) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. The Rule was made on 22 April 2026 and comes into operation on 13 May 2026.

The Statutory Rule will amend Part 34 (Shops, financial and professional services establishments) of the Schedule to the Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 (GPDO) by introducing a new Class E (Reverse Vending Machines) to allow for the installation, alteration or replacement of a reverse vending machine (RVM) in a wall of a shop or within the curtilage of a shop, subject to certain limitations and conditions.

The following conditions will apply:

- there should be no limit to the number of RVM that can be installed within the curtilage of a shop;
- in the case of a RVM installed in the wall of a shop, any part of the development must not exceed 2 metres beyond the outer surface of that wall;

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- the RVM must not exceed 4 metres in height;
- the footprint of the RVM must not exceed 80 square metres;
- it must not face onto and be within 5 metres of a road;
- the RVM must not be situated within 15 metres of the curtilage of a building used for residential purposes; and
- the permitted development right would not apply to the proposed installation of a RVM in a World Heritage Site, conservation area, an area of special scientific interest or a site of archaeological interest or the curtilage of a listed building, unless listed building consent has been granted.

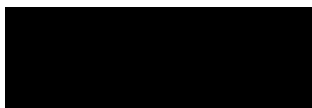
The Statutory Rule is part of the wider preparations for the implementation of the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) which will come into force in October 2027.

If permitted development rights are not provided retailers will be required to apply for planning permission for RVM outside of their premises which would result in delays to the scheme implementation and represent an additional cost to retailers.

The Rule may be viewed online at:

[The Planning \(General Permitted Development\) \(Amendment\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2026](#)

Yours sincerely



ROSEMARY DALY
Chief Planner & Director

Cc: PAC