

To Consultees

Environmental Policy Division
6th Floor
Goodwood House
44-58 May Street
Belfast
BT1 4NN

28th November 2016

Dear Consultee

Consultation on changes to packaging recycling business targets for paper, steel, aluminium, wood and overall recovery and recycling for 2018-2020

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has published the above named consultation paper as part of a UK-wide consultation. We are pleased to invite you to participate and seek views on the introduction of new overall recovery and recycling targets and material specific targets for paper, wood, steel and aluminium for 2018-20 under the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 and the corresponding Regulations in Great Britain.

Consultation Options

The Producer Responsibility (Packaging Waste) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 and the corresponding Regulations in Great Britain require producers of packaging to ensure that a proportion of the packaging they handle is recovered and recycled. The proportion they must ensure is recovered and recycled depends on

- the amount of packaging they have handled,
- the activity they have carried out on that packaging e.g. retailing, pack filling etc and
- the UK/Northern Ireland business targets.

This consultation proposes 3 options for new material specific recycling targets for paper, steel, aluminium and wood and new overall recovery and recycling targets from 2018-20.

The options are:-

| Option 1 | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 2018 Business Target | 2019 Business Target | 2020 Business Target |
| Paper | 69.5% | 69.5% | 69.5% |
| Aluminium | 55.0% | 55.0% | 55.0% |
| Steel | 76.0% | 76.0% | 76.0% |
| Wood | 22.0% | 22.0% | 22.0% |
| Total Recovery | 79.0% | 79.0% | 79.0% |
| Total Recycling | 72.7% | 72.7% | 72.7% |
| | | | |

| Option 2 | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 2018 Business Target | 2019 Business Target | 2020 Business Target |
| Paper | 71.0% | 73.0% | 75.0% |
| Aluminium | 57.0% | 59.0% | 61.0% |
| Steel | 79.0% | 82.0% | 85.0% |
| Wood | 38.0% | 43.0% | 48.0% |
| Total Recovery | 80.0% | 82.0% | 85.0% |
| Total Recycling | 73.6% | 75.4% | 78.2% |
| Option 3 | | | |
| | 2018 Business Target | 2019 Business Target | 2020 Business Target |
| Paper | 70.0% | 71.0% | 72.0% |
| Aluminium | 58.0% | 61.0% | 64.0% |
| Steel | 78.0% | 80.0% | 82.0% |
| Wood | 25.0% | 28.0% | 31.0% |
| Total Recovery | 80.0% | 81.0% | 82.0% |
| Total Recycling | 73.6% | 74.5% | 75.4% |

Full details of the costs and benefits of the different options are described in the Impact Assessment that accompanies the consultation document.

The consultation seeks views from respondents on which targets are most desirable and the reasons why. There is no preferred option. We would also welcome any further evidence and comments on the evidence provided in the consultation especially regarding the data which underpins the targets and impacts on the costs/benefits.

The UK Government's overarching aim is to have appropriate targets which ensure that the UK complies with the EU Packaging Directive targets whilst maximising the benefits for consumers, businesses and the environment.

Consultation process

This consultation paper is presented by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government. It can be found on the website:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste/packagingtargets2018-20>

The consultation will start on **29 November 2016**. Responses should be received **no later than 12pm on 06 January 2017**. The consultation period has been reduced in order to make a decision by Budget 2017. If you wish to discuss the options in the consultation document and impact assessment, please contact the me.

All responses should be sent by email to packaging@defra.gsi.gov.uk, or by post to Producer Responsibility
 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
 Area 2B Nobel House
 17 Smith Square
 London
 SW1P 3JR

Respondents in Northern Ireland should also send their response by email to wslpr@daera-ni.gov.uk, or by post to:

Janis Purdy
Environmental Policy Division
DAERA
6th Floor, Goodwood House
44-58 May Street
BELFAST
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Please make sure that any email responses are clearly marked **‘Packaging Target Consultation Responses’**.

In your response, please explain who you are and, where relevant, whom you represent and give your name and appropriate contact details.

Equality screening of the proposals has concluded that they do not impact on equality of opportunity on any of the groups specified in Section 75. The Equality Commission will receive copies of this consultation document as part of this consultation exercise and any comments received from the Commission will be taken into account.

The Human Rights Act 1998 implements the European Convention on Human Rights. The 1998 Act makes it unlawful for any public authority to act in a way that is incompatible with these rights. We believe that the proposals in this consultation document are compatible with the Human Rights Act, but would welcome any views that you might have. The Human Rights Commission will receive copies of this consultation document as part of this consultation exercise and any comments received from the Commission will be taken into account.

Consultation Criteria

In this consultation document the expression ‘government’ means, collectively, the UK Government, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

Yours sincerely

Janis Purdy