



**WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2009**

**PUB ASSOCIATION ISSUES WARNING TO LICENSED TRADE ON SCOTTISH  
PARLIAMENT DEPOSIT AND RETURN PROPOSAL**

The Scottish Beer and Pub Association (SBPA), members of which operate 1,500 of Scotland's 5,200 pubs and which represents most of the country's major brewers and drinks companies, has issued a warning on proposals contained in the draft Climate Change Bill tabled in the Scottish Parliament last month which would allow Scottish Government Ministers the powers to "make regulations" allowing the introduction of a "deposit and return" scheme for beverage containers in Scotland.

The proposals are contained in Clause 58 of the Climate Change Bill which was tabled last month in the Scottish Parliament, and which are now the subject of a consultation exercise by the Scottish Parliament's Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee. The consultation ends on 27th February 2009 and SBPA will be responding to the Committee's request for views on the draft legislation. The possibility of a "deposit and return" scheme being introduced was flagged up in the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Strategy late last year, which the SBPA responded to.

Said Patrick Browne: "These proposals will make little difference to the number of glass bottles recycled by pubs given that these are already the subject of contracts with commercial and council waste collectors where glass is already collected and largely recycled, but the concern is that pubs could find themselves confronted by customers or indeed non-customers seeking a cash refund for empty bottles that the businesses hadn't sold them. It is also difficult to see how and return scheme could work in a purely Scottish context given that the drinks market is largely operated UK-wide. How would the Scottish Government stop recyclers from depositing bottles into Scotland in order to claim deposits which hadn't been paid on them?"

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"It seems strange that Scottish Ministers are seeking powers to introduce a 'deposit and return' scheme in advance of even saying that they support the idea following their consultation last year. We would suggest is it even more questionable to give Ministers the powers to introduce such a major and potentially very costly proposal using regulations, rather than having to introduce a detailed piece of primary legislation which would be subject to more scrutiny by the Scottish Parliament."

"Given the economic downturn which has seen significant falls in the value of recycled materials, including glass, we would hope that the Scottish Parliament would see sense and remove any provisions relating to 'deposit and return' from the Climate Change Bill."

**ENDS**

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