EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE

WHAT IS A DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME (DRS)?

A Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is designed to boost recycling and cut down on litter. It works by adding a deposit to the price of in-scope drinks containers, which consumers get back when they return the empty container for recycling.

WHO IS EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE?

Exchange for Change is a not-for-profit body formed by industry, for industry, and appointed to administer the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The DRS is a statutory scheme established by government. Exchange for Change is responsible for designing and operating it in accordance with that legislation, working alongside producers, retailers, wholesalers and hospitality businesses to ensure the scheme is delivered clearly, consistently and effectively.

MATERIALS IN SCOPE

PET, ALUMINIUM STEEL

150ML – 3L

HOSPITALITY SITES ARE NOT REQUIRED TO OPERATE DRS RETURN POINTS IN ENGLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Under the regulations, only groceries retailers are mandated to operate return points for DRS material.

The regulations also specify that the following sites, among others, are not required to operate return points:

- ✕ **Coffee shops**
- ✕ **Takeaway shops**
- ✕ **Bars, restaurants, clubs**
- ✕ **Indoor attractions e.g arcade, museum, gallery**
- ✕ **Recreational facilities e.g sports clubs & gyms**
- ✕ **Retailers located in an educational institution or hospitals**
- ✕ **Vending machine locations**

ON-PREMISE CONSUMPTION

- A deposit is paid to product suppliers.
- The premise can opt-out of passing the deposit onto the consumer.
- If the deposit is not passed on to the customer, the premise will forfeit the deposit value unless the containers are returned or suitable collection arrangements are made.

OFF-PREMISE CONSUMPTION

- A deposit is paid to the producer (product suppliers).
- A deposit must be charged to consumers.

COLLECTIONS

The premise can choose whether they have the containers picked up by exchange for change or an approved alternative (exchange for change will publish guidance later this year).

Q1 2026
Logo regulatory requirements
Material specification
The RVM spec: supplied in Q4 2025

Q2 2026
Deposit value confirmed
Retail handling fee confirmation
Exemptions criteria
Material spec

Q3 2026
Registration period open