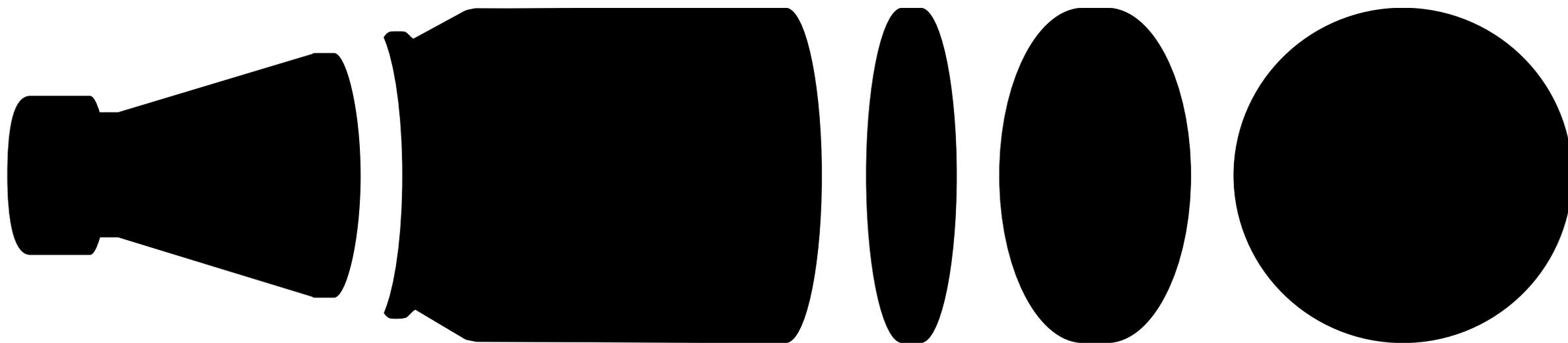


**EXCHANGE  
FOR CHANGE**



# **CONTENTS**

**WHAT IS A DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME (DRS)?**

**WHO IS EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE?**

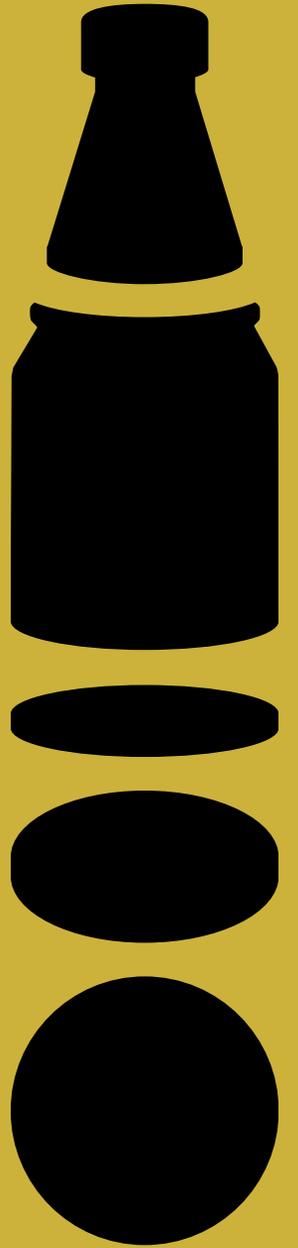
**REGULATIONS / OBLIGATIONS & Timelines**

**TBC – Republic Of Ireland – DRS Impact**

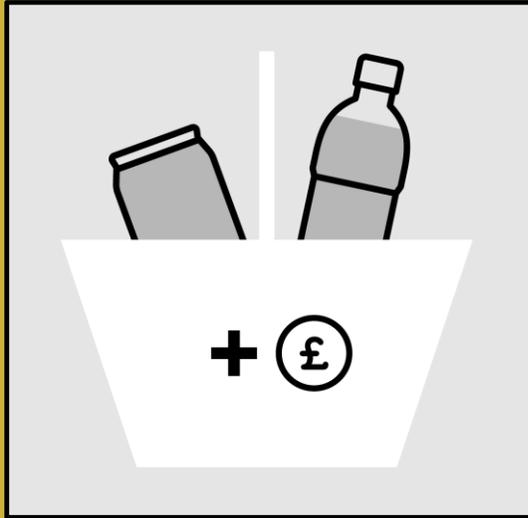
**TBC – Wholesaler Update**

**Q&A**

**WHAT IS A  
DEPOSIT  
RETURN  
SCHEME  
(DRS)?**

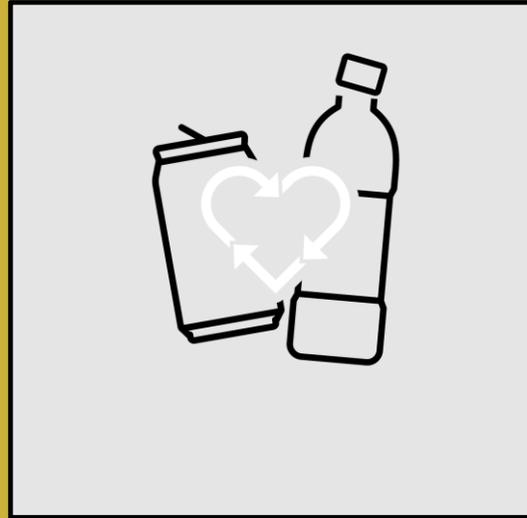


# WHAT IS A DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME (DRS)?



## DEPOSIT

- Customers pay a deposit on each product at purchase.



## RETURN

- The deposit is refunded when the empty container is returned to a Return Operating Point.



## RECYCLED

- The returned material is collected and recycled.

# WHAT IS THE GOAL OF A DRS

The scheme is designed to significantly increase recycling rates for drinks containers, reduce litter, and create a reliable source of high-quality recycled material.





# HOW DOES MONEY FLOW IN A DRS?

# THERE ARE 3 INCOME STREAMS



**MATERIAL SOLD**



**UNREDEEMED  
DEPOSITS**



**PRODUCER FEE**

## HOW DOES MONEY FLOW IN A DRS

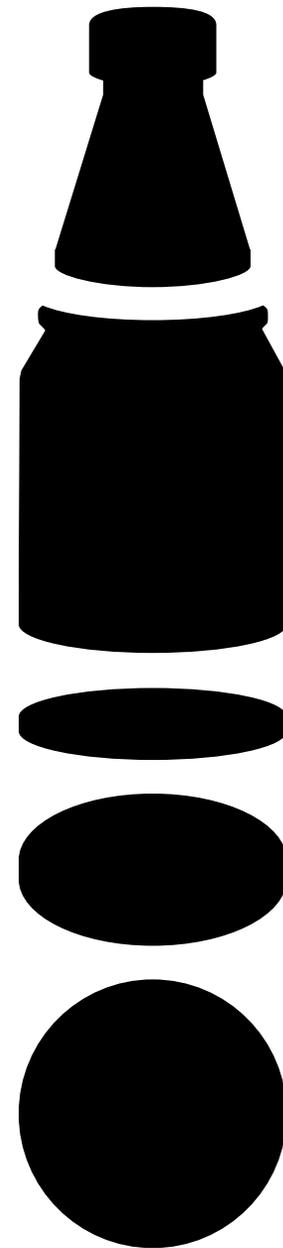


**INCOME STREAM  
(INC. PRODUCER  
FEE)**

**EXCHANGE FOR  
CHANGE**

**RUNNING COSTS  
(INC. RETAIL  
HANDLING FEE)**

**WHO IS  
EXCHANGE  
FOR CHANGE?**



## LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTED BY THE UK GOVERNMENT

# 2018

- UK Government first proposed a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) as part of its Resources and Waste Strategy

# 2025

- **January** - Legislation for a DRS in England and Northern Ireland was implemented
- **June** – Legislation for a DRS in Scotland was amended and designated to the UK DMO (now Exchange for Change) as Scheme Administrator

# 2027

**October 2027** – The Deposit Return Scheme is set to go-live across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland

# EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE IS THE UK'S DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME

GOING LIVE IN OCTOBER  
2027 – ENGLAND, NI AND  
SCOTLAND

EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMPANY FORMED BY INDUSTRY, APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT TO DESIGN, IMPLEMENT AND OPERATE THE DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME FOR ENGLAND, SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND.

**MATERIALS IN  
SCOPE**

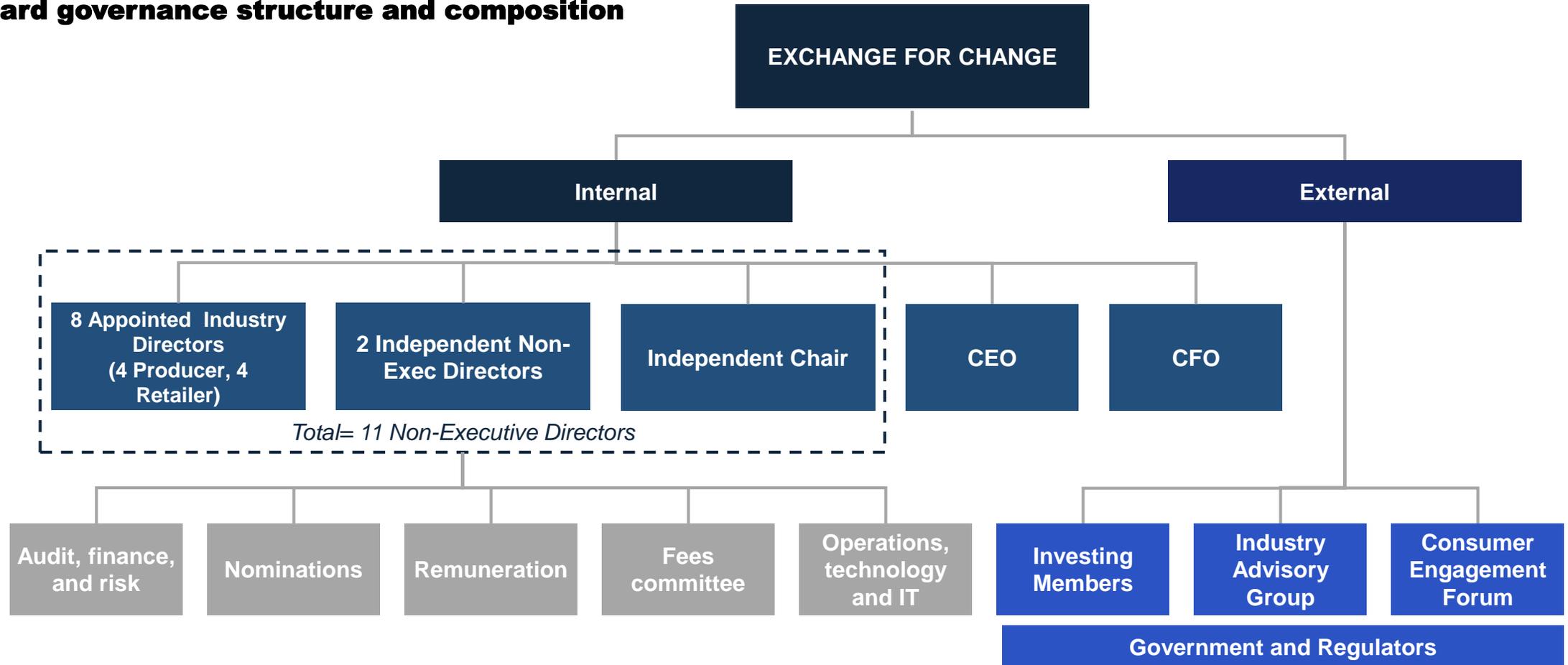
**PET  
ALUMINIUM  
STEEL**

**150ml – 3L**



# The structure and composition for the Exchange for Change board and committees was based on successful Deposit Management Organisation's (DMO's) models across Europe

## UK DRS board governance structure and composition

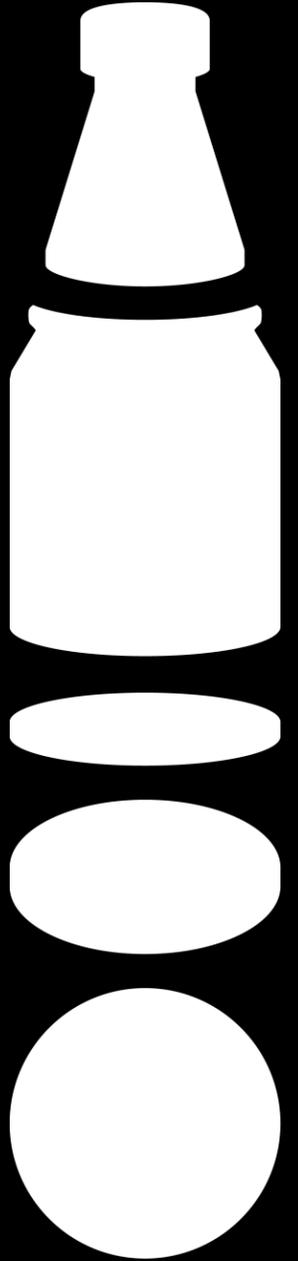


**Committees  
for  
consultation:**



# REGULATIONS

Producers, Return Point Operators and Exchange for Change



# REGULATIONS APPLY TO 3 MAIN STAKEHOLDERS



**EXCHANGE  
FOR CHANGE**

## PRODUCERS

Manufacturers of container drinks, an importer, or a person who fills to order.

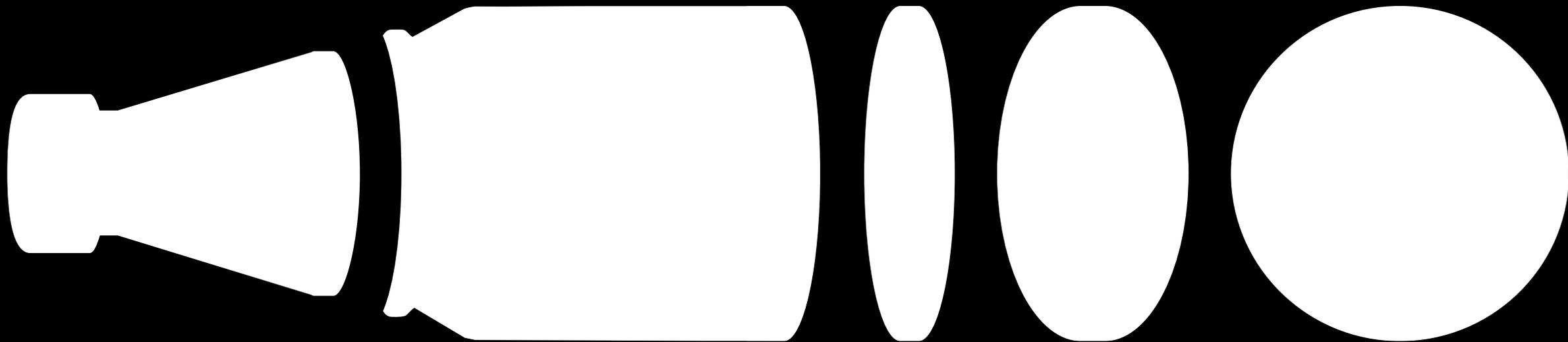
## RETURN POINT OPERATORS

Grocery Retailers are mandated as the primary return point.

Voluntary return points may be operated by other venue types.

## EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE

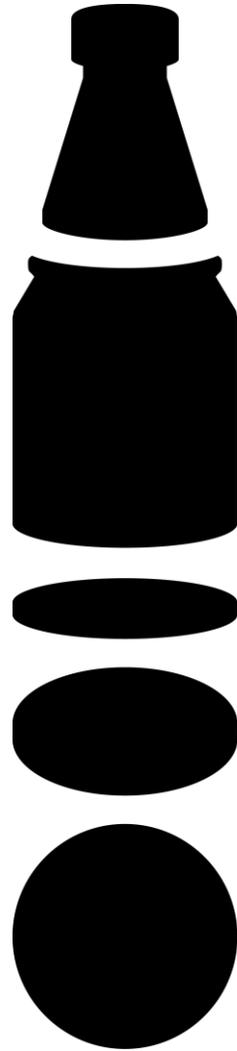
The not-for-profit industry led organisation responsible for the UK's Deposit Return Scheme.



**PRODUCERS**

**PRODUCERS WILL  
BE REQUIRED TO  
DISPLAY A SCHEME  
LOGO AND  
BARCODE ON ALL  
IN-SCOPE ITEMS**

MATERIAL SPECIFICATION  
WILL BE ISSUED MARCH  
2026



**EACH IN SCOPE  
CONTAINER -  
EVEN IF SOLD IN  
MULTIPACKS -  
REQUIRES THE  
ICON AND  
BARCODE TO BE  
ON THE  
CONTAINER**

# EACH SCHEME PRODUCER MUST PAY A PRODUCER FEE PER CONTAINER PLACED ON THE UK MARKET

PRODUCER FEE WILL BE  
COMMUNICATED Q2 2026.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PRODUCER FEE:

- **ALL** Drinks Producers must register with Exchange for Change and report all in scope products placed on the market.
- **Producers** will **pay both** a **Producer Fee** and a **Deposit** to Exchange for Change for each unit of product placed on the market.
- The **Producer fee will be set** at a value required to **maintain the financial viability** of Exchange for Change
- The **Producer Fee** will be **reviewed each year** and may require adjustment to maintain the financial viability of this Deposit Return Scheme.

# ALL IN-SCOPE SCHEME PRODUCERS ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE

REGISTRATION WILL  
START IN LATE 2026

LATE 2026

**DEFINITION OF SCHEME PRODUCER:** Manufacturers of container drinks, an importer, or a person who fills to order.

**EXEMPTIONS:** Producers will be granted an exemption if the number of containers per SKU does not exceed: 6,250 containers in the first 15 months of scheme, or 5,000 containers in any year thereafter (from January 2029). **Producers must still register for the scheme, even if exemptions apply.**

**MATERIALS INCLUDED:** PET, Aluminium, and steel drinks containers

**SIZE INCLUDED:** 150ml – 3 Litres

**DATA REPORTING:** Producers must keep a record of in-scope containers placed on the market and provide specific container information uploaded to an online portal.

# PRODUCER TIMELINE

## LATE 2026

### REGISTRATION

1. Producer Registration commences late 2026
2. Approved products are added to the Article List.
3. The Article List is updated daily to RVM's.
4. Final article list registration for 'GO LIVE' to be completed by targeted July 1<sup>st</sup> 2027.

## FROM OCT 2027

### TRANSITION PERIOD

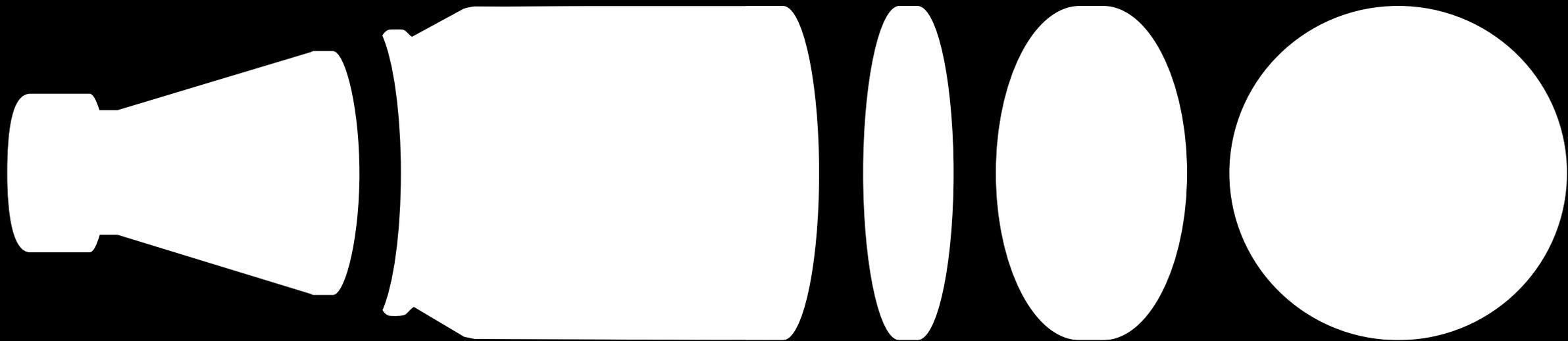
1. During the transition period, both in-scope and out-of-scope products may be sold to allow stock sell-through.
2. The transition period length for Producers & Retailers is to be confirmed and will be consulted on, targeted for Q2 2026.

## POST TRANSITION

### IN-SCOPE CONTAINERS

1. After the transition period, only in-scope containers listed on the Article List may be sold and returned under the scheme.
2. Any new or changed products must be registered with Exchange for Change to the Article List before they can be recognised by RVMs and accepted for return.





**RETURN POINT  
OPERATORS**

# GROCERY RETAILERS WILL BE THE PRIMARY RETURN POINT FOR THE SCHEME



## MANDATED VS VOLUNTARY RETURN POINTS

- Return points are **mandated** for Grocery Retailers (Registration Required)
- Return points are **voluntary** for various other premises

## MANUAL VS AUTOMATIC RETURN POINTS

- Return points can be run in two ways:
- **Automatic (Reverse Vending Machines):** Investment upfront, but faster and better for busy locations
- **Manual:** Ideal for smaller volume grocers.

## EXEMPTIONS CRITERIA

- **Small Retailers:** There is an **exemption** if retail selling space is **less than 100m<sup>2</sup>**.
- **Other retailers:** After registration, retailers may apply for an exemption if they meet communicated criteria.

# **HOSPITALITY SITES ARE NOT REQUIRED TO OPERATE DRS RETURN POINTS**

**UNDER THE REGULATIONS, ONLY GROCERY 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, RESTUARANTS, CLUBS
- INDOOR ATTRACTIONS E.G ARCADE, MUSEUM, GALLERY
- RECREATIONAL FACILITIES E.G SPORTS CLUBS & GYMS
- RETAILERS LOCATED IN AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OR HOSPITAL

# AUTOMATIC RETURN POINTS

AUTOMATIC RETURN POINTS REQUIRE UPFRONT INVESTMENT BUT PROVIDE FASTER AND MORE EFFICIENT PROCESSING FOR A HIGHER VOLUME OF RETURNS.

## HOW IT WORKS

1

The consumer places an **empty container** into the **RVM** slot.



2

The machine **scans the container's barcode** to verify its **eligibility**.

3

The **container is crushed** and **stored** inside the machine for **efficient collection**.

4

The **deposit is refunded** to the consumer who has returned their container.



# RETAIL HANDLING FEE (RHF)

THE RETAIL HANDLING  
FEE WILL BE  
COMMUNICATED END OF  
Q2 2026

Q2 2026

## RETURN POINT OPERATORS WILL BE COMPENSATED THROUGH THE RETAIL HANDLING FEE (RHF)

The Retail Handling Fee is paid, per container, to retailers that operate return points to fairly cover the costs of collecting, storing and managing returns.



# THE RETAIL HANDLING FEE WILL BE DETERMINED BY EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE THROUGH A DETAILED CONSULTATION PROCESS

THE RETAIL HANDLING FEE WILL BE COMMUNICATED END OF Q2 2026

Q2 2026

1

An external independent advisor has been appointed to build a fair & equitable cost model and consult with stakeholders.

Q1 2026

2

The external independent advisor will enter a consultation period with:

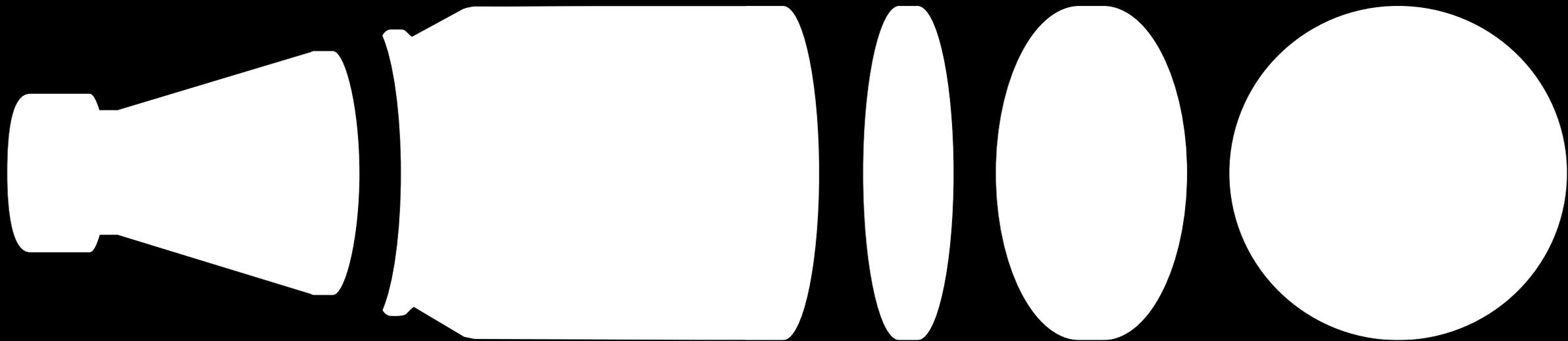
Investing members  
Return point operators  
Industry advisory groups  
Government stakeholders

Q1/Q2 2026

3

The Board will consider all feedback and make the final decision on the retail handling fee

End Q2 2026



**EXCHANGE FOR  
CHANGE**

# EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE IS THE UK'S DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME

GOING LIVE IN OCTOBER  
2027 – ENGLAND, NI AND  
SCOTLAND

EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT BODY FORMED BY INDUSTRY AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DESIGNING, IMPLEMENTING, AND OPERATING THE DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME.

This includes:

- Registering producers and retailers
- Managing return point operations
- Coordinating logistics
- Overseeing financial flows such as deposits and handling fees
- And ensuring high return rates while minimising fraud

The **scheme is designed** to significantly **increase recycling** rates for drinks containers, **reduce litter**, and create a reliable source of **high-quality recycled material**.

# THE DEPOSIT LEVEL(S) WILL BE SET BY EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE

WHEN SETTING THE DEPOSIT LEVEL(S), THE FOLLOWING FACTORS WILL BE CONSIDERED:

COLLECTION TARGETS

AFFORDABILITY &  
FAIRNESS

BUYING BEHAVIOUR

PACKAGING  
REQUIREMENTS

CONSISTENCY WITH  
OTHER SCHEMES

COLLECTION TARGETS

SIMPLICITY OF  
COMMUNICATION

# LOGISTICS & COLLECTIONS

**EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING COLLECTION AND SORTING OF RETURNED MATERIALS.**

**COLLECTION FREQUENCY:** Regular collection schedules will be established considering volume of returns, capacity of return points and optimisation of logistics.

**COLLECTION LOGISTICS:** Exchange for Change will contract with logistics providers to handle collection and transportation of returned items ensuring environmental impact is reduced throughout this process.

**COUNTING & SORTING CENTRES:** Exchange for Change intends to use counting / sorting centres as part of the network of the UK DRS - ensuring all in-scope containers can be counted and sorted ahead of recycling.

# LOGISTICS & COLLECTIONS

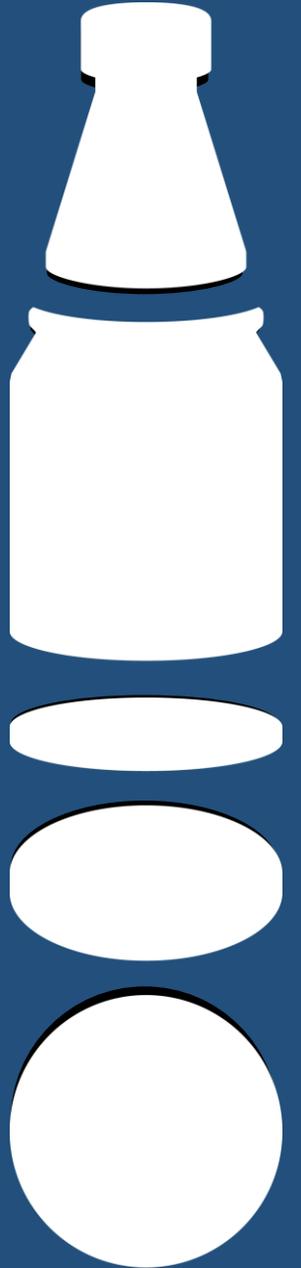
**Additionally, Exchange for Change will manage data reporting and will provide to Return Point Operators.**

**DATA REPORTING:** Exchange for Change will implement systems to track the number of containers returned, ensuring transparency and accountability.

**DATA PROVIDED TO RPO'S:** Exchange for Change will provide return point operators, retail premises and take-back service operators with reports on collection rates, for verification and payments.

# OBLIGATIONS

Producers & Return Point Operators





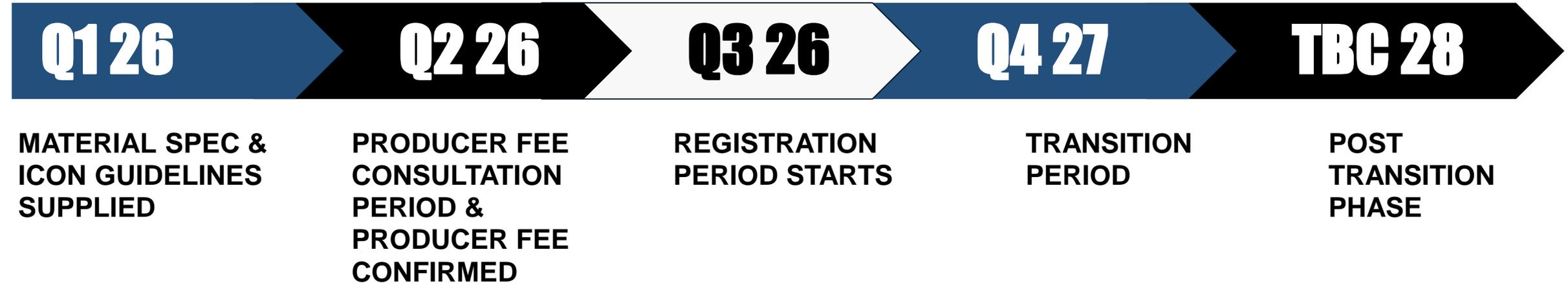
# PRODUCERS

# YOUR OBLIGATION AS A PRODUCER

- **CHANGE LABELLING OF PRODUCTS TO INCLUDE THE SCHEME LOGO GUIDELINES AND NEW BARCODES.**
  - EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE TO SHARE ICON AND MATERIAL SPEC BY END OF MARCH 2026
- **REGISTER WITH EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE VIA OUR WEBSITE**
  - EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE TO SEND COMMS ON REGISTRATION OPENING IN Q3 2026 VIA THE NEWSLETTER, TRADE PRESS AND SOCIAL MEDIA.
- **PAY PRODUCER FEES**
  - PRODUCERS TO PAY DEPOSIT AMOUNT & PRODUCER FEE TO EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE FOR EACH IN SCOPE PRODUCT PLACED ON THE MARKET.
- **PRODUCERS WILL GET FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL ON MATERIALS FROM EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE.**
  - EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM TO FACILITATE THIS OBLIGATION FOR PRODUCERS



# PRODUCER TIMELINE



**EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE : WEBINARS, NEWSLETTERS, SOCIAL POSTS, TRADE EVENTS, PRESS**



# DOCUMENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- **MATERIAL SPEC**
- **LOGO GUIDELINE RELEASE**
- **TRANSITION PLAN**

All documents and assets  
can be found at  
[www.exchangeforchange.co.uk/resources](http://www.exchangeforchange.co.uk/resources)





# RETAILERS

SECTION A

# YOUR ROLE AS A RETAILER

- **REGISTER WITH EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE VIA OUR WEBSITE**

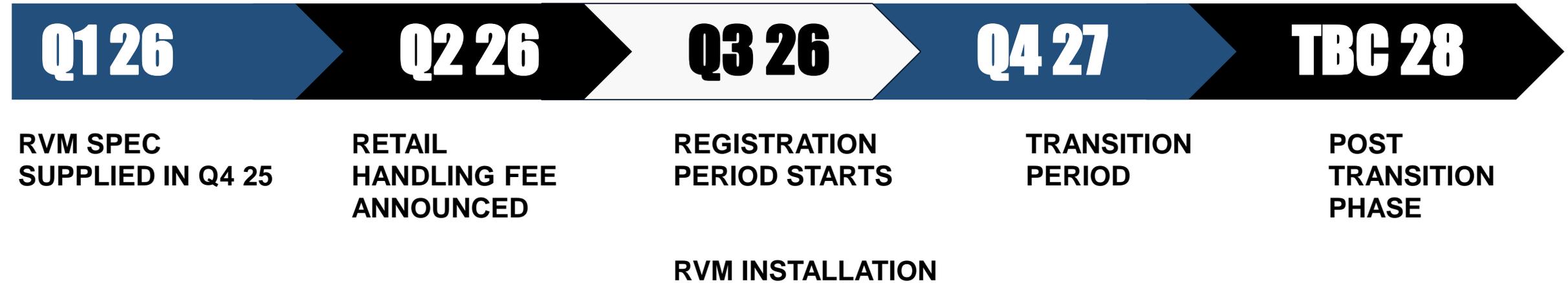
- EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE TO SEND COMMS AROUND REGISTRATION OPENING VIA THE NEWSLETTER, TRADE PRESS AND SOCIAL MEDIA.

- **OPERATE RETURN POINTS**

- RETAILERS MUST OPERATE A RETURN POINT USING A REVERSE VENDING MACHINE (RVM) OR A MANUAL RETURN POINT.



# RETAILERS



**EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE : WEBINARS, NEWSLETTERS, SOCIAL POSTS, TRADE EVENTS, PRESS**



# DOCUMENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- EXEMPTIONS CRITERIA
- SUPPORT MATERIALS
- TRANSITION PLAN

**EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE : WEBINARS, NEWSLETTERS,  
SOCIAL POSTS, TRADE EVENTS, PRESS**





# WHOLESALE

SECTION A

# **YOUR ROLE AS A WHOLESALE**

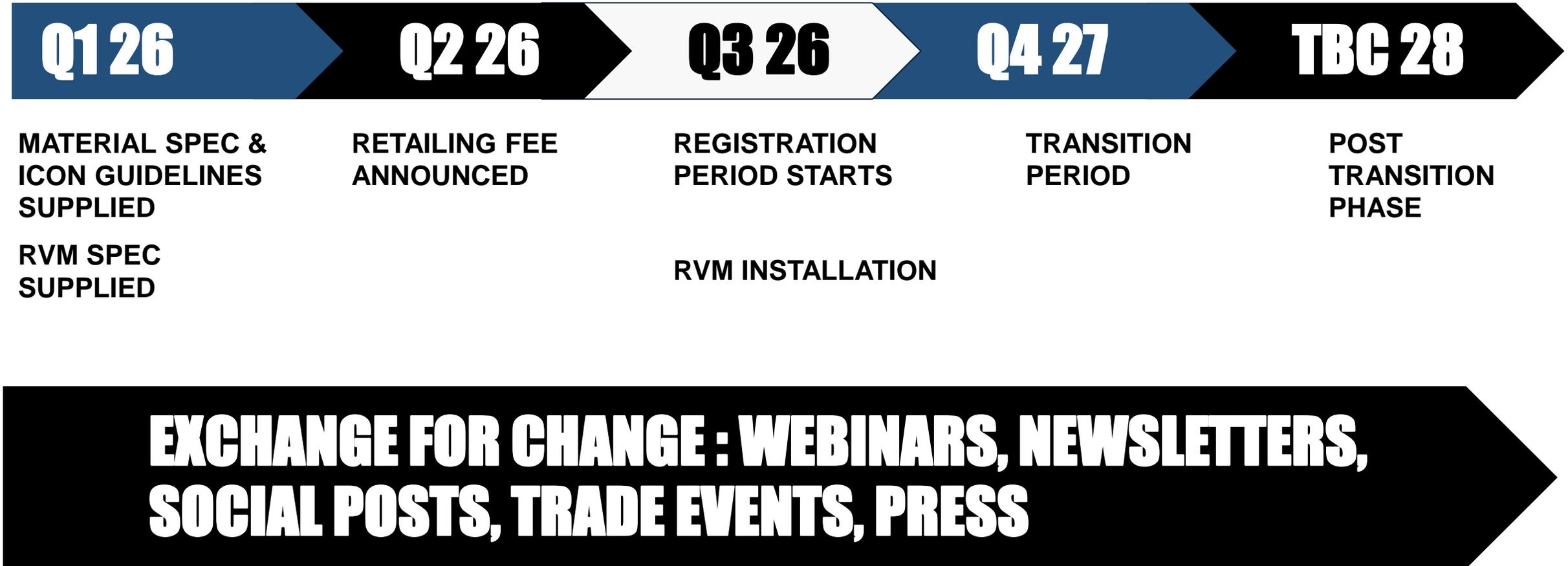
**UNDERSTAND POTENTIAL OBLIGATIONS AS A PRODUCER WHERE APPLICABLE (E.G. RETAILER OWN BRAND, IMPORT AGENT)**

EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE TO SHARE MATERIAL SPECIFICATION MARCH 26.

**CHARGE AND COLLECT THE DEPOSIT FROM THEIR CUSTOMERS ONCE SCHEME IS LIVE OCTOBER 27.**

**MAINTAIN RECORDS OF CONTAINERS SUPPLIED AND DEPOSITS CHARGED WHERE APPLICABLE. (E.G. RETAILER OWN BRAND, IMPORT AGENT)**

# WHOLESALE TIMELINE

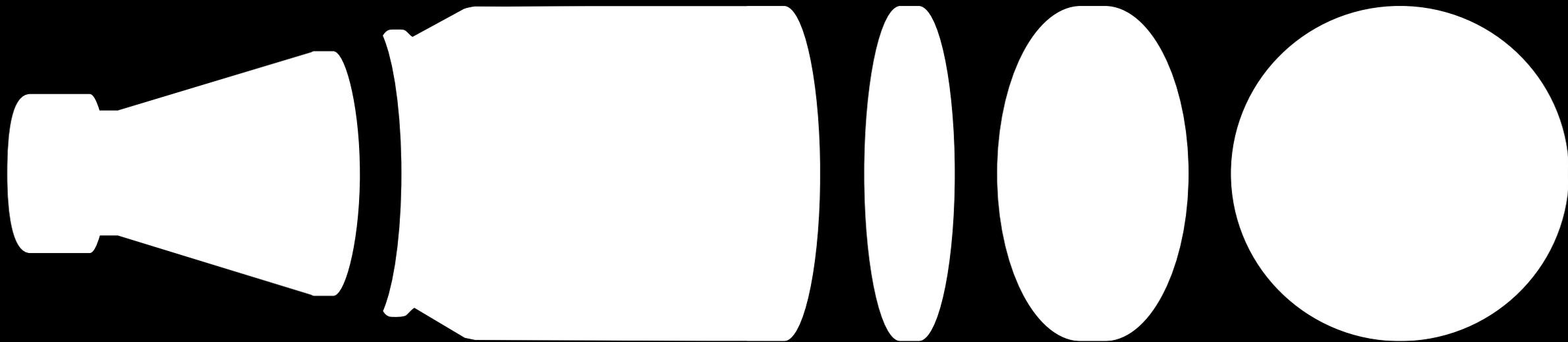


# DOCUMENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- **MATERIAL SPEC**
- **LOGO GUIDELINE RELEASE**
- **EXEMPTIONS CRITERIA**
- **SMALL RETAILER SUPPORT**
- **TRANSITION PLAN**
- **REVERSE LOGISTICS CRITERIA**

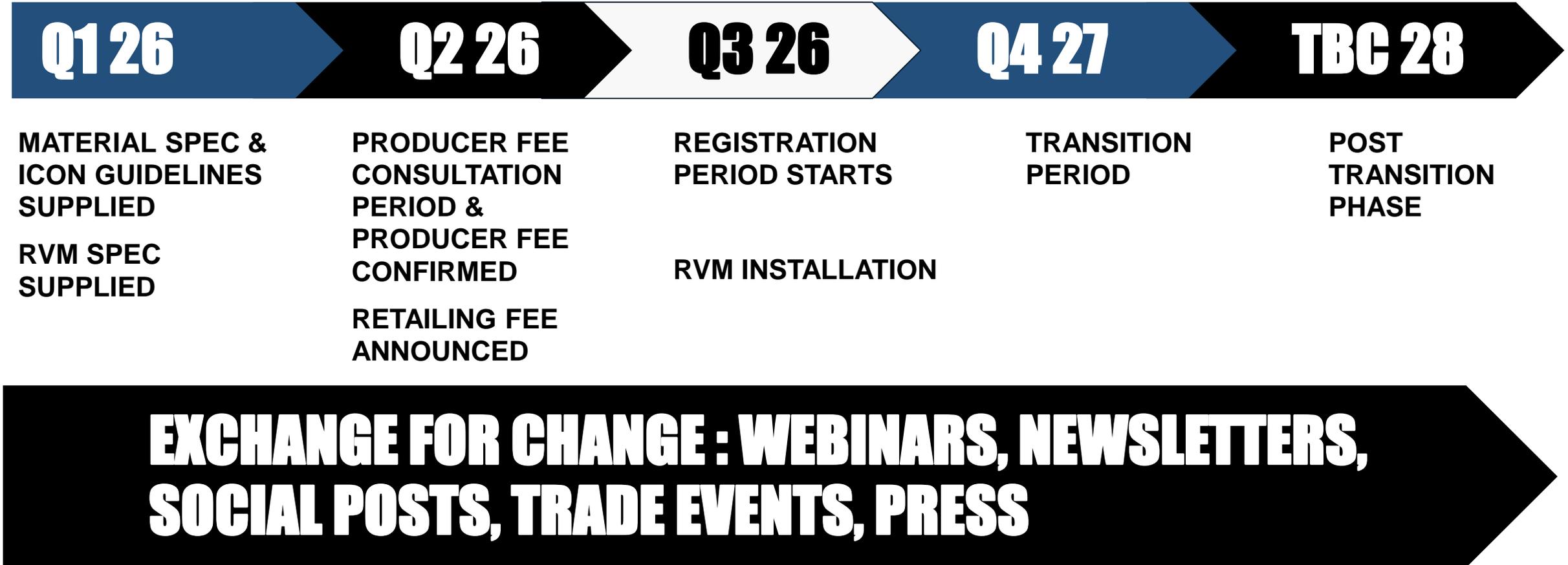
All documents and assets  
can be found at  
[www.exchangeforchange.co.uk/resources](http://www.exchangeforchange.co.uk/resources)





**TIMELINES**

# B2B Stakeholder Timelines



# Comms Timelines

## Q1 26

- WEBINAR 101
- 1 PAGERS – DRS 101, HOW A DRS WORKS
- INTERIM WEBSITE
- ANIMATIONS
- PRESS
- EVENTS

## Q2 26

- WEBINAR 201
- NEW WEBSITE BUILD
- WHITE PAPERS
- ANIMATIONS
- PRESS
- EVENTS
- B2B APP DEV

## Q3 26

- WEBINAR 301
- NEW WEBSITE GO LIVE
- WHITE PAPERS
- ANIMATIONS
- PRESS
- EVENTS
- B2B APP

## Q2 27 ONWARDS

- CONSUMER COMMS
  - THROUGH-THE-LINE CAMPAIGN
  - GRASS ROUTES CAMPAIGN





Food & Drink  
Wholesale UK



Scottish  
Wholesale  
ASSOCIATION



# WHOLESALE WORKING GROUP

# **THE WHOLESALE OPPORTUNITY**

**A CROSS-SECTOR GROUP OF WHOLESALERS  
REPRESENTING ALL ASPECTS OF WHOLESALE AND  
EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY. (I.E. RETAIL,  
FOODSERVICE, CASH & CARRY, DELIVERED, SMALL,  
LARGE, NATIONAL, REGIONAL, LOCAL AND RURAL)**

**WORKING COLLECTIVELY FOR EVERYONE IN THE  
WHOLESALE CHANNEL**

**TO CREATE A COMMERCIALY VIABLE MODEL  
FOR WHOLESALE**

**PROTECTING THE INDEPENDENT RETAIL,  
HOSPITALITY AND ON-TRADE CUSTOMERS**

# THE WHOLESALE OPPORTUNITY

Wholesale as a Return Point



Wholesale as Backhaul



Wholesale as a Bulk Consolidator



Wholesale as a Communicator

**EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE**

**WHO IS EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE?**  
Exchange for Change is a not-for-profit charity funded by industry, for industry, to help reduce the design, manufacturing, and recycling of the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. We're working closely with producers, retailers, wholesalers and freight/logistics partners to make sure the scheme is clear, consistent and works for all across the UK.

**HAVE QUESTIONS?**  
Contact us at [enquiries@exchangeforchange.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@exchangeforchange.co.uk)

**STAY INFORMED**  
We'll keep you up to date on the latest news, updates and guidance on the UK's Deposit Return Scheme.

**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.

**HOW A DRS WORKS**

DEPOSIT	RETURN	RECYCLED
Customers pay a deposit on each product at purchase.	The deposit is returned when the empty container is returned.	The returned material is collected and recycled.

**YOUR OBLIGATION AS A WHOLESALER**

- UNDERSTAND YOUR POTENTIAL OBLIGATION AS A PRODUCER WHERE APPLICABLE TO YOUR OWN BRAND (SUPPORT APPLICABLE)**
- CHARGE AND COLLECT THE DEPOSIT ON ALL PER IN-SCOPE CONTAINERS FROM YOUR CUSTOMERS (YOUR SCHEME DOES LIVE IN CUSTOMER'S HANDS)**
- MAINTAIN RECORDS OF CONTAINER SUPPLY AND DEPOSITS CHARGED WHERE APPLICABLE**

**MATERIALS IN SCOPE**

PET  
ALUMINUM  
STEEL  
GLASS

**Stay informed &  
join EFC webinars...**



**THANKS**