

Press release: PM confirms consultation on plastic bag charge to go ahead

Further action to tackle the blight of plastic waste and leave the environment in a better state than we found it has been confirmed by the Prime Minister Theresa May today, as she sets out government plans to consult on extending the 5p plastic bag charge to all retailers, not just big businesses.

The consultation, to be launched later this year, will also explore the possibility of increasing the 5p minimum charge to encourage further behaviour change, potentially doubling it to at least 10p.

The changes will build on the success of the current charge, which has seen plastic bag sales in England's 'big seven' supermarkets drop by 86% and 13 billion plastic bags taken out of circulation in the last two years.

Over three billion bags are estimated to be supplied by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) each year. Together these steps will help to cut down the number of unnecessary bags we still use, and which litter our towns and rivers.

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

We have taken huge strides to improve the environment, and the charge on plastic bags in supermarkets and big retailers has demonstrated the difference we can achieve by making small changes to our everyday habits.

I want to leave a greener, healthier environment for future generations, but with plastic in the sea still set to treble we know we need to do more to better protect our oceans and eliminate this harmful waste.

Today's announcement is the latest step in the government's ongoing fight against plastic, both at home and abroad.

This includes a world-leading ban on microbeads which harm marine life, and plans to ban the sale of plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds and introduce a deposit return scheme to drive up the recycling of drinks bottles and cans, subject to consultation.

To spearhead further international collaboration, the Prime Minister also announced over £61 million in UK Aid to boost global research, and help countries stop plastic waste from entering the oceans, at this year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

In a demonstration of ongoing global partnership, the UK will now provide £250,000 to support the design and delivery of a Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, to be hosted by Kenya in Nairobi in November.

The commitment was made by the Prime Minister during her visit to Kenya, and will see the UK bring its expertise to the first ever major oceans conference to be hosted on the African mainland to help control pollution and support green jobs.

In addition the UK can announce that a further six African Commonwealth countries (Seychelles, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Namibia and the Gambia) have now joined the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance (CCOA), pledging their support and cooperation to end the scourge of plastics in our oceans.

The UK will provide up to an additional £5million in funding to assist CCOA countries seeking to take ambitious action – doubling the amount announced at CHOGM.

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

With over twelve million tonnes of plastic making their way into our oceans each year, plastic pollution is one of the biggest challenges facing the environment today.

But marine litter is a global problem, and cleaning up our seas and oceans requires a global effort.

The UK has been at the forefront of raising the importance of tackling plastics on the international stage, and I am delighted to see more countries across Africa sign up to our ambitious Commonwealth Alliance, and pledge action to reduce it.

Finally, the Prime Minister used her visit to Kenya to set out plans to inspire young people to become leaders in the fight against single-use plastic, with a new Girl Guides and Scouts Plastic Challenge Badge.

Working in partnership with UN Environment, and backed by an initial investment of almost £40,000 from the UK Government, the new badge will first target schools and youth groups in Kenya, then two further countries, helping an estimated 50,000 young people to better understand the importance of reducing plastic consumption and kick-start behaviour change.

The ambition is to then reach the 50 million global membership of the Girl Guiding and Scouts Associations.

Erik Solheim, Head of UN Environment:

The environment has already paid a heavy price for our addiction to single-use plastics. We simply can't allow that cost to extend to

the next generation.

That's why this support from the UK government to create and launch a plastic pollution badge with the Guides and Scouts is such an inspiring step in the right direction. This global partnership allows us to not just fight plastic pollution on the beaches, but to invest in the young minds that will preserve the planet for future generations to come.

To harness the enthusiasm of its 400,000 members, the government will also work in partnership with the UK Scout Association to create a new Plastics and the Marine Environment Activity Pack to support Scouts in reducing plastic waste through their existing environmental challenge badges.

The UK will also establish an exchange programme that will enable Scouts from the UK and Kenya to learn from one another how important the issue of plastics is in different parts of the world.

Open consultation: Contracts for Difference (CfD): proposed amendments to the contract

The government [consulted on proposed changes to the Contracts for Difference \(CfD\) scheme](#) in December 2017, and has published its response.

We're now seeking further views on how decisions on matters covered in that consultation will be implemented into the CfD scheme. We invite comments on the revised drafts of the CfD Standard Terms and Conditions and the CfD generic Agreement published alongside this document: the proposed amendments are shown as tracked changes in these documents.

We also welcome views on a small number of new proposals addressing associated issues that emerged during the original consultation, and on proposed minor and technical contract changes to ensure that the contract terms remain effective. These include:

- the way in which reference price forecasts are used during the allocation process
- the treatment of those technologies which are eligible to participate in the CfD scheme regardless of whether they deploy with Combined Heat and Power (CHP) (i.e. the 'optional CHP' technologies, currently advanced conversion technologies, anaerobic digestion and geothermal)
- Issue 7 of the CHP Quality Assurance (CHPQA) Standard and Guidance Note 44 giving effect to new increased efficiency requirements for CHP

projects. New versions of both these documents are available on this page, with changes marked

- Brexit-related changes to ensure that the CfD contract functions effectively after the UK has left the European Union
- a series of proposed minor and technical changes to ensure that the contract terms remain effective

Notice: SN15 5HH, Mr John Howat, Mrs Christine Howat and Mr Ian Howat: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and decision document for:

- Operator name: Mr John Howat, Mrs Christine Howat and Mr Ian Howat
- Installation name: Upper Startley Farm
- Permit number: EPR/NP3131MZ/V003

News story: London market trader fined for selling rotten fruit with incorrect labelling

A London based market trader has been fined for displaying, offering for sale and selling rotten fruit and vegetables that failed to meet the minimum quality standards.

Brian Childs, a stallholder at Queens Market in Upton Park, London was fined £1,998 at Thames Magistrates' Court on 22 August 2018, following an investigation by the Rural Payments Agency's (RPA) Horticultural Marketing Inspectors (HMI).

Mr Childs, who trades under the name of Jaqueline Childs, runs one of the largest independent fruit and vegetable stalls within the purpose-built indoor complex.

An HMI inspection found the stall selling rotten lettuce, plums and papaya,

while kakis and limes were being marketed with incorrect country of origin labelling.

Peter Bainbridge, RPA Operations Director said:

The ultimate objective of the RPA's Horticultural Marketing Inspectors is to work closely with the fresh produce industry at all times. They use face-to-face inspection as a means of providing advice and guidance to help support retailers such as Mr Childs understand the role that the marketing standards can play in adding real value to their business.

Unfortunately their advice is not always heeded by individuals and businesses and when all other options are exhausted, the RPA will resort to the use of criminal sanction to bring about a required change in behaviour.

On top of the fine, HMI investigation costs of £2,049 were awarded, along with victim surcharge, producing a total financial penalty of £4,138.

Background

- Horticultural Marketing Inspectors are part of the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). The team is responsible for the enforcement of the EU marketing standards for fresh fruit, vegetables, salad crops, nuts and cultivated mushroom, throughout England and Wales, wherever fresh produce is grown, imported, exported, bought or sold.

[Guidance: Financing heat networks in the UK: guidebook](#)

This guidance outlines some of the issues, risks and opportunities around financing heat networks in the UK, to support the move to a self-sustaining heat network market. It includes:

- a decision tree for engaging with internal and external funding sources
- a decision tree for delivery structure and funding sources
- revenue streams
- commercial structures (delivery, contractual and funding)
- business rates
- accounting implications
- tax implications (Corporation Tax, VAT, Stamp Duty and Construction Industry Scheme)
- links to other guidance
- case studies

- engagement with the funding market
- cash flows associated with structures explored

The guidance is aimed at:

- heat network sponsors
- heat network developers
- heat network funders