



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe
Department of
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers
www.daera-ni.gov.uk



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Plastic and Packaging team
Department for Environment,
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Date: 24 March 2026

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on proposals for reform to the Packaging Waste Recycling Note (PRN) system

We are inviting views on possible reforms to the Packaging Waste Recycling Note (PRN) system.

Following consultations in 2021 and 2022, reforms to the PRN system were introduced from 1 January 2026. While these measures will deliver important progress, following strong calls from reprocessors and exporters, we recognise that there is more to do. The four nations are therefore consulting on a further package of measures that have been codesigned with industry experts, and we are planning a further consultation which will seek views on potential wider reforms to the PRN/PERN system.



The changes aim to level the playing field between UK domestic reprocessors and exporters and reduce the risk of fraud and error.

In particular, we are focusing on the following areas for reform:

- i. **Provide further guidance on the application of the Regulations to ensure that all accredited operators are issuing evidence based on the recyclable packaging content after sorting and cleaning has taken place**
- ii. **Place a time limit on the use of national protocols and Agency Agreed Industry Grades (AAIGs)**
- iii. **Cancel illegitimately issued PRNs and PERNs**
- iv. **Introduce an Exceptional Mechanism for Compliance**
- v. **Enhance data transparency**

The following documents may be found on Citizen Space:

- Consultation document, where more detail on the proposed changes can be found
- Privacy Notice

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals.

Responses

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an online consultation tool):

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/prn-and-pepr-stewardship-team/consultation-on-prn-reform/>

If you are unable to respond to the consultation using Citizen Space, you can download the consultation documents and return your response via email to: packaging@defra.gov.uk or via post to:

Plastic & Packaging Team
Circular Economy Directorate
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,
Ground Floor, Seacole Block,
2 Marsham Street,
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Responses should be received by Tuesday 5 May 2026.

Defra is managing the consultation process on behalf of the UK, Scottish and Welsh governments and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.

After the consultation, a summary of the responses to this consultation and the four nations response will be published and placed on government websites at www.gov.uk/defra, www.daera-ni.gov.uk, www.gov.scot and www.gov.wales.

This consultation is being conducted in line with the [Cabinet Office consultation principles](#).

Using and sharing your information

How we use your personal data is set out in the consultation and call for evidence exercise privacy notice which can be found here [Privacy notices - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

Plastic and Packaging Team

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

packaging@defra.gov.uk