



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Consultation on proposals to ban the distribution and/or sale of plastic straws, plastic- stemmed cotton buds and plastic drink stirrers in England.

October 2018



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Introduction

1. The government wants to leave our environment in a better state than we found it. The 25 Year Environment Plan that was published on 11 January outlines the steps that will be undertaken to achieve that ambition, including new measures to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste. A ban on the sale / supply of plastic straws, plastic drinks stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds in England (subject to a consultation) was announced by the Prime Minister at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit held in April. We will continue to allow straws for medical or other accessibility reasons.
2. The government has also run a call for evidence on how the tax system or charges can be used to reduce single-use plastic waste. This call for evidence ran from 13 March 2018 to the 18 May 2018, and the government will announce at the Budget the policies that it plans to take forward.
3. This government is already a world leader in tackling plastic waste, not only banning microbeads but also taking nine billion plastic bags out of circulation with our 5p carrier bag charge. These initiatives have proved effective and been met with public support and enthusiasm.
4. We acknowledge, however, that more needs to be done to protect our environment from the scourge of plastic waste. We will be publishing our new Resources and Waste Strategy later this year. The aim of the strategy will be to make the UK a world leader in resource efficiency and resource productivity and to increase competitiveness. It will set out how we will work towards our ambitions of doubling resource productivity and achieving zero avoidable waste by 2050, maximising the value we extract from our resources and minimising the negative environmental impacts associated with their production, use and disposal.
5. Single use plastics, including plastic stemmed cotton buds, plastic drinking straws and plastic drinks stirrers, are associated with negative effects on the environment if they are littered or discarded incorrectly after their use. Not only do they damage terrestrial and marine life, there are costs associated with their clean-up and externality costs imposed on the tourism and fishing industries when they are disposed of incorrectly.
6. Plastic means a synthetic polymeric substance that can be moulded, extruded or physically manipulated into various solid forms and retains its final manufactured shape during use in its intended applications. Plastic is an incredibly versatile material that forms a key component of many products we use today. It is tough and long-lasting which is why it can also be a problem for the environment. We are using the definition of plastics in these regulations: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1640/contents/made>
7. The proposed ban will include all plastics, including compostable plastics such as PLA (Polylactic acid) straws as these require very specific conditions to break down fully. If

they are sent to landfill or end up in a marine environment, PLA straws can be just as damaging as plastic straws. Similarly other biodegradable plastics can take time to degrade without oxygen and sunlight once they have leaked into the broader environment. This lack of complete degradation could result in the generation of micro plastics, which can be more harmful to the environment. However, we seek further evidence in this consultation to check whether these assumptions are correct. We also welcome views whether it is likely that technical innovations in compostable or biodegradable plastics in the next few years might improve their environmental or economic value, and hence that targeted exemptions from the ban might be appropriate in due course.

8. Single-use plastics do, however, have a number of vital uses where the properties offered by plastic cannot currently be matched by the available alternatives. This is particularly apparent for example in low-cost hygienic medical plastics.
9. The government believes plastics production needs to be directed towards ensuring that fewer single use plastics are produced and more reuse and recyclable materials are preferred and promoted. We want to ensure that we have fewer single use items or composite and difficult to recycle plastics produced. We want to support Research and Development, innovation to finding solutions to increase the recyclability of plastics and alternatives to commonly used single use plastics. The UK government has committed a £61.4 million package of funding to boost global research and help countries across the Commonwealth stop plastic waste from entering the oceans in the first place.

Purpose of this consultation

10. The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on **banning** the distribution and/or sale of plastic straws, plastic-stemmed cotton buds and plastic drink stirrers. We are, in particular, seeking views and evidence of the additional costs or constraints to business; the impact on the price per unit of the non-plastic alternatives as the scale of production increases; and predictions and views on what the extent of the impact on consumers is likely to be.
11. We are also, in relation to plastic straws, seeking views on how best to provide for exemptions to maintain access to their supply for any groups of people that might need them (such as those with specific medical or other accessibility needs). Plastic medical-enabling straws are used to administer (durably and safely) pre-dosed granular medicines in hospitals and homes for example, whilst flexible plastic straws are used to assist/enable drinks and liquid food consumption in older adults and people with specific accessibility needs.

Scope of this consultation

12. This consultation aims to address the impact of plastic straws, plastic-stemmed cotton buds and plastic drink stirrers on the environment. In this consultation we are not

seeking views on any other single-use or 'on-the-go' plastics. Our wider ambitions can be found in the 25 Year Environment

Plan. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

Geographical scope

13. The proposals would apply to England only. Devolved Administrations will be launching consultations separately should they wish to take action on these single use plastics.

Responsible body

14. This consultation is being carried out by Defra's Resources and Waste Team on behalf of the UK Government.

Audience

15. This is a public consultation and it is open to anyone with an interest to provide comments. The consultation should be of particular interest to users with specific needs, businesses involved in the manufacture or provision of plastic straws and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) concerned about their impact on the environment.

Duration

16. This consultation will run for 6 weeks. This is in line with the Cabinet Office's 'Consultation Principles' which advises government departments to adopt proportionate consultation procedures. The consultation opens **22 October 2018** - The consultation closes **03 December 2018**.

Responding to this consultation

17. Please respond to this consultation using the citizen space consultation hub at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/plastic-straws-stirrers-and-buds>

By email to Plastics.Consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk or in writing to: Plastic straws, stirrers & cotton buds Consultation, Resources & Waste Team, Defra, Ground Floor, Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF.

After the consultation

18. After the consultation, a summary of the responses to this consultation will be published and placed on the government website at www.gov.uk/defra.

19. Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of

Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances.

- 20.** If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.
- 21.** The Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs will process your personal data in accordance with the law and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.
- 22.** This consultation is being conducted in line with the “Consultation Principles” as set out in the Better Regulation Executive guidance which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.
- 23.** If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to: By e-mail: consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk, or in writing to: Consultation Coordinator, Area 1C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR.

Part A: Plastic drinking straws



Background/Issue

- 24.** Plastic straws have a significant impact on our environment, both on land and in our seas and rivers when they are either littered or discarded incorrectly after use. Plastic straws are typically made of polypropylene, with other types of plastic used for their production in minority markets e.g. for medical-enabling uses. **Polypropylene** is widely considered one of the most versatile plastics, found in most market sectors that use plastics. Its characteristics include a high melting point under heat, it is resistant to cracking and stress even when flexed and it does not react with water, detergents, acids, or bases, so it will not break down easily.
- 25.** Disposable plastic drinking straws may be rigid or flexible in nature, plain or coloured and may come wrapped in film for hygiene purposes. An array of straws are produced for both domestic and commercial uses. They can be characterised into two main sizes – ‘**large drinking straws**’ to suit drinks glasses/cups and ‘**small beverage carton straws**’ to suit small soft drinks cartons or juice pouches. In addition to large disposable drinking straws, reusable and durable straws are also sold (cocktail straws, refillable sports drinks bottles, reusable non-plastic straws). **Plastic medical-enabling straws** are used to administer (durably and safely) pre-dosed granular medicines in hospitals and homes. Flexible plastic straws are used to assist/enable drinks and liquid food consumption in older adults, disabled groups, those that have suffered from a stroke or are using them for other short term medical reasons.
- 26.** The government recognises that there are a number of vital uses for straws particularly for the elderly and disabled, those who might find it difficult to consume drinks due to the impact of a stroke, injury or some other long-term condition, causing significant discomfort. Some of the alternatives to plastic straws may be unsuitable for the

consumption of hot drinks, reusable plastic straws can raise hygiene concerns and metal and glass straws can be dangerous for people with neurological conditions such as Parkinson's.

27. Plastic straws are usually avoidable, but they are currently integrated in some product designs, most notably small beverage cartons. The government would like to understand whether banning plastic straws might have wider implications for how products are designed or marketed, and whether this could cause unintended environmental effects, cause extra costs to businesses or consumers, or reduce the usefulness of products. We recognise that many of these products are imported, so we welcome evidence about the supply chain implications and costs that may arise from a ban. We also seek views on whether **October 2019** is a sufficient timescale for transition.
28. Plastic-free single-use alternatives already exist in the market for some types of products. For example, paper-based straws are available for certain types of drinking straws.
29. In terms of waste and recycling behaviours, because straws are lightweight and predominantly used in restaurants, pubs, fast food outlets, schools or workplaces, or at parties, they are typically discarded to general waste rather than recycled due to the effort required to segregate and clean them and to sort at recovery facilities.
30. While we recognise there are some exceptions, most people do not need to use plastic straws and yet some estimates indicate that 4.7 billion straws are consumed each year in England.

Proposals

31. The government commends and fully supports those retailers, bars and restaurants that have already committed to either removing plastic straws from their outlets or only supplying them to customers if a specific request is made. However, we want to go further than supporting these initiatives and believe that only legislation can fully address this problem and leave the environment in a better state.
32. In the Impact Assessment that was published alongside this consultation, we have assumed that in 2018 95% of straws are made from plastic. If a ban were to be enacted in late 2019, we have assumed that only a very small proportion of straws will still be plastic by 2020 - with paper expected to take the market share of plastic. Our initial estimate is that of the 4.7 billion currently consumed, around 44 million straws a year will still be needed for medical or accessibility needs.
33. We recognise that some people will still need to access plastic straws. The government is therefore seeking views on how a ban could best be implemented.
34. We are determined to ensure those with accessibility needs are not disadvantaged or stigmatised by this ban. We will take all steps necessary and we welcome all ideas during this consultation process.

35. The government is seeking views on banning the distribution and/or the sale of plastic drinking straws. Any such ban would require the following exemptions:

- For medical use ‘**Plastic medical-enabling straws**’ for administration of medicines and also flexible ‘enabling’ straws for individuals that need them for accessibility needs or other reasons.
- For use within hospitals “**pre-dosed granular medicines in hospitals and homes**”
- Pharmacies – for purchase by, or for, those with accessibility or medical needs.
- Bars, restaurants and other establishments should still be able to purchase and supply some straws specifically for use by those with accessibility or medical needs upon request.

36. Plastic pre-dosed granular medical-enabling straws are used to administer (durably and safely) pre-dosed granular medicines in hospitals and homes. Flexible plastic straws are used to assist/enable drinks and liquid food consumption in older adults and other groups with specific accessibility needs.

37. It is proposed to provide for these exemptions by allowing wholesalers to import and stock plastic straws for distribution to, pharmacies and pharmacy departments in both hospitals and retailers for supply to those that need them. We will be seeking views on whether online pharmacies should be allowed to supply plastic straws. It is also proposed that we allow catering establishments such as pubs and restaurants to provide plastic straws to customers on a specific ‘on demand’ basis.

38. It could be the case that a ban would be more effectively implemented if it initially only applied to certain establishments, such as pubs and restaurants. This consultation seeks views on whether targeting a ban more narrowly to begin with would be preferable.

39. The Impact Assessment accompanying this consultation document assumes that these groups will not be affected by the ban, given there will be an exemption. We are seeking views in the consultation on how the exemption can be best designed to ensure that those groups who need access to straws are still able to get them.

Monitoring and enforcement

40. It is proposed that the ban will be enforced through civil sanctions set out in Part 3 of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008. As part of the consultation, we are seeking views on how such civil enforcement can most effectively and proportionately be carried out.

Questions 1 to 28

1. Would you like your response to be confidential?

- Yes/No

- If yes, please give your reason
2. What is your name?
 3. What is your email address?
 4. What is your organisation?
 5. It would be helpful for our analysis if you could indicate which of the sectors you most align yourself/your organisation with for the purpose of this consultation (please tick / circle one which is most applicable to you):
 - public body
 - non-governmental organisation
 - retail industry
 - manufacturing industry
 - member of the general public
 - other
 6. Do you support the proposal to introduce a ban on the distribution and/or sale of plastic drinking straws in England?
 - Yes / No
 - Please give reasons.
 7. Do you agree with our proposed date for the ban (October 2019)?
 - Yes / No
 - If no please explain why.
 - If your answer to question 2 is “No”, when should the ban be in force? April 2020 / October 2020.
 8. Do you support a ban on beverage carton straws?
 - Yes / No
 - Please give reasons.
 - Would you support a ban on beverage carton straws coming into effect later than October 2019? If so, how much longer? (April 2020 / October 2020)
 - Please share any evidence or views on the potential design and marketing implications of a ban on beverage carton straws.
 - Please share any evidence or views on the potential implications and costs for imports and supply chains
 9. Should the government begin with a targeted ban on the distribution of straws with a longer-term view to extending it?

- Yes / No
- Please give reasons
- If so, how would this work in practice?

10. If pursuing a broader ban including the sales of straws, do you agree with the proposal to exempt plastic straws for medical-enabling and other specialist uses from any ban?

- Yes / No
- Please give reasons
- For 'other specialist uses' please give examples

11. Do you agree with the proposal to provide exemptions for wholesalers to import and stock plastic straws for distribution to, pharmacies and pharmacy departments in retail outlets and other users for medicinal and specialist uses?

- Yes / No
- Please give reasons
- Please provide any supporting examples, evidence or consideration of implications.

12. Should the government allow / exempt catering establishments (such as pubs, cafés and restaurants) to provide plastic straws to customers on a specific 'on demand' basis?

- Yes / No
- Please give reasons
- How should this exemption operate in practice?

13. If your answer to question 6 was 'Yes' who should be able to supply to catering establishments?

- Pharmacies only
- Pharmacies and wholesalers.

14. Should online pharmacies be able to supply plastic straws?

- Yes /No
- Please give reasons

15. Are there any other groups for whom the alternatives to plastic drinking straws might be unsuitable? Please specify:

- Please supply any evidence you may have to support your suggestions.

- Are there any purposes not included in the exemptions where the alternatives to plastic drinking straws are not suitable?

16. Are there any other steps government should take to ensure those with accessibility needs are not disadvantaged or stigmatised?

17. Do you agree that the ban should cover all compostable and biodegradable plastic (such as PLA)?

- Yes / No
- Please give reasons and any evidence that might be helpful. Are there environmental or economic reasons why these should not be banned?

18. Do you agree with the government's assumptions (outlined in the accompanying Impact Assessment) that the number of straws made of plastic will fall from 95% in 2018 to under 5% by 2020 if a ban is enacted in October 2019? If not, please supply any evidence or modelling that you may have undertaken.

19. Do you anticipate any additional costs and or constraints to industry from this proposed ban?

- Please supply any evidence you may have to support these costs and constraints
- We welcome further evidence for the price per unit of non-plastic straws, and evidence to suggest how the price of non-plastic straws will change as the scale of production increases.

20. Should we expect non-plastic straw use/ consumption to decrease?

- Yes / No
- Please provide evidence that can be used to predict how consumers respond to a change in the material of straws.

21. Our proposals for enforcement are that the ban will be enforced through civil sanctions set out in Part 3 of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008.

- How should compliance with the ban be monitored?
- Who should enforce the ban? (for example, Local Authorities, Trading Standards or Office for Product Safety and Standards)

22. Are there any risks that alternatives to plastic straws will themselves have significant environmental impacts?

- Yes/No

- If so, how could these risks be avoided, minimised or mitigated? Please supply any evidence you may have to support your suggestions

23. Is there anything else you would like to tell us relating to the proposed ban on the distribution and/or sale of plastic straws?

With respect to the accompanying impact assessment:

24. Do you agree with the government's estimation that the number of straws made of plastic will fall gradually from 95% in 2018 to 3% by 2026 even if a ban was not enacted in October 2019?

- If not, please supply any evidence or modelling you have undertaken.

25. Do you agree with government's 44 million straws (about 1% of existing straws) will still be required for exemptions following a ban?

- If not, please supply any evidence or modelling you have undertaken

26. Do you agree with the government's estimation of business costs or constraints to industry from a ban as a total of £4.3m per year because alternatives cost around 4 times as much as plastic straws?

- If not please supply any evidence or modelling you have undertaken to demonstrate if it is overestimated or underestimated.

27. Do you agree with the government's assumption that the price of non-plastic straws will remain unchanged following a ban?

- If not, please supply evidence or modelling you have undertaken

28. Do you agree with the government's assumption that overall demand/ consumption of straws will remain unchanged (hence no behavioural response from a ban)?

- If not, please supply evidence or modelling you have undertaken

Part B: Plastic stemmed cotton buds



Background/Issue

- 41.** This proposal would be to ban the sale / supply of plastic stemmed cotton buds. Cotton buds are single-use products used in the home, hospitals, care homes and hotels for hygiene purposes such as ear cleaning, first aid and makeup application and arts and crafts. Plastic stemmed cotton buds have a polypropylene straw stem and use a plastic-based adhesive to attach a small ball (bud) of cotton wool to each end of the stem.
- 42.** Much like plastic drinking straws, the plastic stems of cotton buds have a significant impact on the environment. A particular disposal problem is that an estimated 10% of cotton buds are flushed down toilets. Incorrect disposal methods lead to costs to society including visual pollution and harms to the marine environment and marine animals, all of which have a negative well-being impact on people. Campaigns to discourage this practice have met with limited success and once flushed the items are able to make their way through sewage plants and out into the marine environment.
- 43.** Once in the marine environment plastic stems can be ingested by marine animals – leading to bioaccumulation of toxic chemicals in the bodies of marine animals and or physical damage to an animal's digestive system.
- 44.** The Marine Conservation Society has been monitoring the levels of cotton buds found on beaches in the UK since 2004. They continue to feature in the top ten most common

marine litter items in beach clean surveys with an average of 27 for every 100m of beach surveyed in 2017.

- 45.** The main alternative to plastic stems are paper stems. Ideally cotton buds would not be disposed of in toilets, but if the products are made of biodegradable material such as paper they may be caught by sewage treatment systems or if not, biodegrade in the marine environment.
- 46.** The ban is intended to ensure that cotton buds sold in England are made of environmentally friendly materials that will decompose quicker and will have lower life-cycle impacts on the environment. The ban will also create a level playing field for businesses to provide consumers with alternatively made cotton buds, and will encourage businesses to invest in biodegradable alternatives to plastic which do not harm the wildlife and the environment.
- 47.** It is also intended that banning plastic cotton buds will foster an increased degree of consumer confidence that the products they buy will not harm wildlife and the environment, and will also increase consumer awareness of the environmental damage that cotton buds can cause when they are not correctly disposed of.
- 48.** Intervention in the market will help those businesses who have already invested in alternatives to plastic cotton buds, and will ensure a level playing field for businesses to switch away from plastic cotton buds. Prohibiting plastic cotton buds could stimulate innovation e.g. investing in plastic free alternatives that can be domestically composted.
- 49.** There have been voluntary moves from plastic to paper stems by manufacturers and retailers. Plastic-free alternatives already exist in the market. Such alternatives are now sold across Europe, with the dominant brand manufacturer, Johnson and Johnson, now manufacturing paper-based buds in mainland Europe and a leading own brand retailer (Sainsbury's) now offering a plastic-free adhesive. All the major supermarkets have followed suit by either switching to biodegradable paper or committing to doing so.
- 50.** It is proposed that we exempt plastic stemmed cotton buds for scientific uses such as those used within forensic science provision, including taking swabs and samples under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

Proposals

The government commends and fully supports those retailers that have taken plastic stemmed cotton buds off their shelves. As with straws, we want to go further than supporting these initiatives and believe that only legislation can fully address this problem and leave the environment in a better state.

That we ban the distribution and/or sale of plastic stemmed cotton buds in England.

Monitoring and enforcement

The government's proposal is that the ban will be enforced through civil sanctions set out in Part 3 of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008. As part of the consultation, we are seeking views on how such civil enforcement can most effectively and proportionately be carried out.

Questions 29 to 38

29. It would be helpful for our analysis if you could indicate which of the sectors you most align yourself/your organisation with for the purpose of this consultation (please tick / circle one which is most applicable to you):

- public body
- non-governmental organisation
- retail industry
- manufacturing industry
- member of the general public
- other

30. Do you support the proposal to introduce a ban on the distribution and/or sale of plastic stemmed cotton buds in England?

- Yes / No
- Please give reasons

31. Do you agree with our proposed date for the ban (October 2019)

- Yes / No
- If no please explain why.

32. Do you agree that the ban should cover all compostable and biodegradable plastic (such as PLA)?

- Yes / No
- Please give reasons and any evidence that might be helpful. Are there environmental or economic reasons why these should not be banned?

33. Can you provide supporting evidence of any expected additional costs and or constraints to industry from this proposed ban?

34. Are there any risks that alternatives to plastic stemmed cotton buds will themselves have significant environmental impacts?

- Yes/No
- If so, how could these risks be avoided, minimised or mitigated? Please supply any evidence you may have to support your suggestions.

- 35. Do you agree with our proposals to exempt plastic stemmed cotton buds for scientific uses? (For example, those used within forensic science provision, including taking swabs and samples under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984)**
- Yes / No
 - Please give reasons.
- 36. Are there any uses of cotton buds where there is no suitable alternative to a plastic stem?**
- Yes/No
 - If so, how could these risks be avoided, minimised or mitigated? Please supply any evidence you may have to support your suggestions
- 37. Our proposals for enforcement are that the ban will be enforced through civil sanctions set out in Part 3 of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008.**
- How should compliance with the ban be monitored?
 - Who should enforce the ban? (for example, Local Authorities, Trading Standards or Office for Product Safety and Standards)
- 38. Is there anything else you would like to tell us relating to the proposed ban on the distribution and/or sale of plastic stemmed cotton buds?**

Part C: plastic drink stirrers



Background/Issue

- 51.** Plastic drink stirrers are rigid single-use products that are usually used to help sugar dissolve into hot drinks or to mix drinks. This would also refer to products known as swizzle sticks. Stirrers are typically used indoors. They are simple in design, lightweight and made of polystyrene. Polystyrene is a hard and rigid clear polymer of styrene that can be moulded into objects, it can be in other application when expanded or made into a foam that is used as thermal insulation.
- 52.** The Marine Conservation Society has been monitoring the levels of plastic / polystyrene pieces (0 – 50cm) found on beaches in the UK since 2004. Plastic stirrers contribute towards polystyrene pieces which are frequently the most common marine litter items in beach clean surveys with an average of 225 for every 100m of beach surveyed in 2017.
- 53.** Many of the issues with plastic drink stirrers are common to other single-use plastics in that, as with straws, in terms of waste and recycling behaviours, stirrers are discarded and can become marine litter rather than being recycled due to the effort required to segregate and clean them. A fraction of stirrers are used outdoors, littered and not street cleansed contributing to problems attributed to single use plastics.
- 54.** The alternative material for single-use drinks stirrers tends to be wood. Metal teaspoons in catering establishments are also an alternative but are not as widespread due to perceptions over hygiene and the need to wash after use.

- 55.** A small market exists for decorated party cocktail stirrers. These may be used in pubs, clubs and restaurants or in the home and are heavier in weight and more reusable. A few plastic-free alternatives for cocktail stirrers exist which tend to be made from glass.
- 56.** The predominant market for stirrers is the hospitality sector and this largely appears to be supplied from outside the UK by importing wholesalers.

Proposals

That we ban the distribution and/or sale of plastic drink stirrers in England.

Monitoring and enforcement

It is proposed that the ban will be enforced through civil sanctions set out in Part 3 of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008. As part of the consultation, we are seeking views on how such civil enforcement can most effectively and proportionately be carried out.

Questions 39 to 46

39. It would be helpful for our analysis if you could indicate which of the sectors you most align yourself/your organisation with for the purpose of this consultation (please tick / circle one which is most applicable to you):

- public body
- non-governmental organisation
- retail industry
- manufacturing industry
- member of the general public
- other

40. Do you support the proposal to introduce a ban on the distribution and/or sale of plastic drink stirrers in England?

- Yes / No
- Please give reasons

41. Do you agree with our proposed date for the ban (October 2019)?

- Yes / No
- If no please explain why

42. Do you agree that the ban should cover all compostable and biodegradable plastic (such as PLA)?

- Yes / No

- **Please give reasons and any evidence that might be helpful. Are there environmental or economic reasons why these should not be banned?**

43. Can you provide supporting evidence of any expected additional costs and or constraints to industry from this proposed ban?

44. Are there any risks that alternatives to plastic drinks stirrers will themselves have significant environmental impacts?

- **Yes/No**
- **If so, how could these risks be avoided, minimised or mitigated? Please supply any evidence you may have to support your suggestions**

45. Our proposals for enforcement are that the ban will be enforced through civil sanctions set out in Part 3 of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008.

- **How should compliance with the ban be monitored?**
- **Who should enforce the ban? (for example, Local Authorities, Trading Standards or Office for Product Safety and Standards)**

46. Is there anything else you would like to tell us relating to the proposed ban on the distribution and/or sale of plastic drink stirrers?