



## A new deposit return scheme (DRS) – what girls have to say

### Future Girl: Meet the Planet Protectors

In 2018, the girls and young women in Girlguiding were asked what they really cared about. We responded in our thousands. And we decided what really matters to us is taking better care of animals and our planet.

We want people to look after the world. We want to see less plastic polluting our oceans and affecting wildlife and to make recycling and reusing things part of everyday life.

### Why a DRS?

We know from other countries, like Norway, that a deposit return scheme (DRS) will help reduce plastic pollution. We want a DRS in the UK and to help make it work for everyone.

The future of the planet is our future too and we are part of the solution to end plastic pollution. We have ideas about what a DRS should look like and we want everyone – including the people in charge – to hear what we have to say.

*'It's a great idea. I didn't know the government thought of that. It will really help'* Girl, aged 10

### Are you listening?

Girlguiding asked its young members as well as thousands of girls and young women (aged 7 to 16) from across the UK what we thought about littering and how a DRS scheme should work. This is what we said.

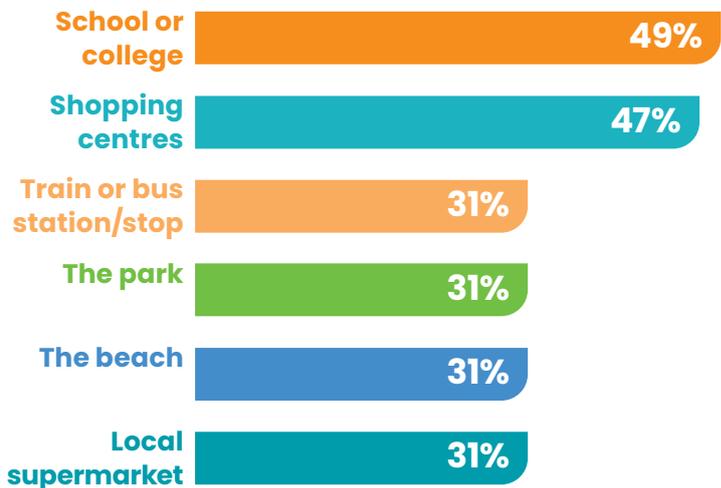
### How plastic littering makes us feel

*'I'm worried about mine and other children's future'* Girl, aged 10



### Best places to return bottles

We want to be able to return bottles in the places where we spend our time. Importantly we want to make sure everyone can use them.



*'I feel annoyed at the adults who don't listen'* Girl, aged 11

*'You could have them in Legoland and Peppa Pig World'* Rainbow



## Top ways to get our money back

Many DRS schemes use coupons, but we don't think this is the best way to get our money back – we'd like to get the cash straight away. We thought there should be an option to donate our deposit to a charity of our choice.



**17%**  
said donate it to a charity of their choice

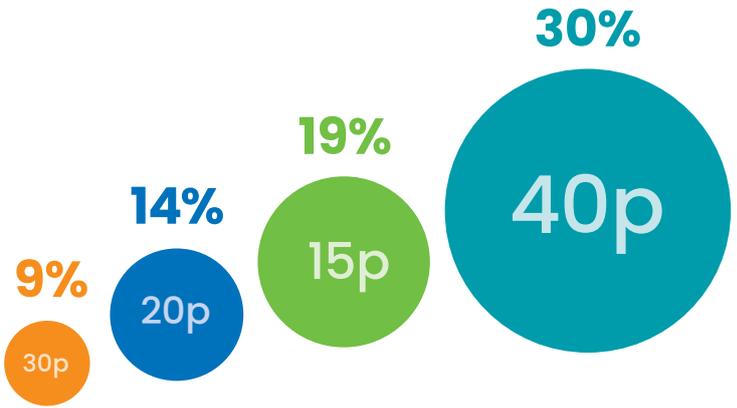


**22%**  
said it should go towards helping the environment



**32%**  
said they'd like to get the cash

## What we'd be willing to pay



Some of us thought it's okay to pay up to 40p per bottle because we get the money back and we know it's going to help the planet. But we want to make sure everyone can use it and nobody is excluded because of cost.

## Help us to be heard

We care about plastic pollution. It's serious. And we want you to take urgent action with us to give young people everywhere a better future.

**A: Help our voices to be heard. The new DRS scheme must include the voice of young people to ensure it works for us. You can ...**



**ASK THE MINISTER** for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what they're doing to make sure we're being heard in the development of the DRS.



**ASK THE MINISTER** for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to set up a youth panel so all children and young people's voices are represented when important decisions are made.



**SHARE OUR EVIDENCE** on what girls have to say on the DRS in a parliamentary debate.



**B: Visit a Girlguiding unit in your constituency to hear what we have to say.**

## Our approach

These views were gathered in lots of ways. First, CHILDWISE – which specialises in research with children and young people – heard from 2,036 children and young people from 7 to 16-years-of-age. Fieldwork took place during September and October 2019.

## About Girlguiding

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. Thanks to the dedication and support of 100,000 amazing volunteers, we are active in every part of the UK, giving girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a powerful force for good.

Find out more by emailing [FutureGirl@girlguiding.org.uk](mailto:FutureGirl@girlguiding.org.uk)



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