

Response ID ANON-HA8K-98VT-7

Submitted to **Proposal to ban the manufacture and sale of plastic-stemmed cotton buds in Scotland**

Submitted on **2018-06-20 14:27:47**

Questions

1 Do you support the proposal to introduce a ban on the manufacture and sale of plastic-stemmed cotton buds in Scotland?

Yes

Please give reasons.:

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) supports the plastic-stemmed cotton bud ban in Scotland due to the following reasons:

1) Plastic cotton buds impact our marine environment

- As a marine conservation charity, we see first hand the impact plastic cotton buds have on our coastlines. They are some of the most commonly found items when we conduct beach cleans around the Isle of Arran. A Marine Conservation Society surveys show that there are 27 cotton buds found for every 100 metres of UK beach.

- Any plastic in the marine environment means that plastic toxins are being leached into our water; these can enter the food chain and present a health risk to humans as the toxins bio-accumulate as they pass up the chain.

- Plastic items in the oceans are ingested by marine animals. Cotton bud stems have been found in the stomachs of dead seabirds and turtles.

2) Alternative materials are available

- Paper or bamboo stems for cotton buds are an easy alternative. Many companies have already switched to using paper or bamboo stems eg Johnson & Johnson.

- Using alternative materials will have little financial impact on manufacturers and retailers, as seen by those who have already changed. Although paper buds are currently slightly more expensive, as demand increases the price will come down and companies see it as a competitive advantage to be selling sustainable, non-polluting products.

3) Industry has shown change is possible

- The Cotton Bud Project by FIDRA has shown that manufactures and retailers are willing to make the change; they convinced Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Aldi, Lidl, Morrisons and Boots to switch to alternatives

Although campaigns to promote behaviour change have had impact on consumer behaviour, they have failed to stop the incorrect disposal of these items eg down the toilet. The best way to change behaviour is to prevent it from happening in the first place; this can be seen through the ban of sale and manufacture of products containing microbeads in Scotland. COAST support the ban on the manufacture and sale of plastic-stemmed cotton buds in Scotland as we believe this will have a profound effect on the health of our marine animals and habitats for which we fight so hard to protect.

2 If you are responding as a business, can you provide supporting evidence of any expected additional costs from this proposed ban?

If you are responding as a business, can you provide supporting evidence of any expected additional costs from this proposed ban?:

N/A

3 Are you content for the Scottish Government to contact you for further clarification of the financial effects that you have estimated?

No

About you

What is your name?

Name:

Jenny Stark

What is your email address?

Email:

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

Sector and Origin: 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 one which is most applicable to you):

Non-Governmental Organisation

If other, please specify::

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Community of Arran Seabed Trust

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response only (without name)

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Slightly satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.: