

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF A PLASTIC BAG TAX WAS INTRODUCED IN SCOTLAND?

MORE DAMAGE TO SCOTLAND'S ENVIRONMENT AND LESS CHANCE OF COMPLYING WITH EU LAW

- Scottish people would switch to heavier, bulkier and more environmentally-damaging alternatives such as paper. These use more energy and produce more pollution in production than plastic. They also release more carcinogenic exhaust emissions in transportation as well as ozone depleting greenhouse gases when they degrade in landfill. And don't forget - more degradable waste in landfill directly contravenes local authority obligations under the EU Landfill Directive.

MORE PLASTIC USED IN SCOTLAND NOT LESS

- Scottish people would have no choice but to buy up to five times more bin liners and rubbish sacks. This happened in Eire simply because 80% of households re-use their carrier bags for this and other purposes like collecting dog droppings and hygienically disposing of malodorous and rotting waste.

MORE BUREAUCRACY, PAPERWORK AND PROSECUTIONS BY SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- Scottish Local Authorities would have to collect the tax which would require taking on specialist staff and setting up new systems within their Trading Standards teams to police and prosecute retailers who did not comply with the tax. This would mean enormous hidden costs for no environmental benefit.

NO CHANGE IN LITTER ON SCOTLAND'S STREETS OR LANDFILL IN SCOTLAND'S WASTE TIPS

- The amount of litter on Scottish streets would not change because plastic carrier bags constitute less than 1% of all litter and in landfill plastic carrier bags comprise only around 0.3% of ALL landfill. In fact landfill tonnage and volume in Scotland will INCREASE significantly by the inevitable disposal of heavier and bulkier alternatives.

SCOTTISH PEOPLE WOULD PAY THE WORLD'S HIGHEST TAXATION LEVEL

- Scottish local authorities will have to implement the world's highest tax levy – 1400% of the real cost of a plastic carrier bag.

SCOTLAND WOULD BE DISCRIMINATING AGAINST THE POOR WHO HAVE NO CAR

- Scotland will be discriminating against low income groups, the elderly and infirm and those without motor cars. The lightweight plastic carrier is by far the lightest and lowest cost (and best environmental) solution to getting shopping home.

VIRTUALLY NO FUNDS WILL BE GENERATED FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL GOOD

- As in Ireland, people simply won't pay the tax so the chances are the Scottish bag tax would generate virtually no net income for environmental projects. Administering the tax has been estimated at up to £7 million every year so most of the tax that a small number of people do pay will be spent on administering it.

UP TO 1000 SCOTTISH JOBS WOULD BE LOST – AND PROBABLY TRANSFERRED TO ENGLAND

- When you add up the jobs of those who make carrier bags to those who store and distribute them, Scotland could end up losing hundreds of jobs or more – for **NO ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT**. Some of these businesses may move to England, so how will Scotland benefit from a tax which creates unemployment, doesn't help the public, won't benefit the environment and adds costs to its local administration.

This briefing has been prepared by the UK Carrier Bag Consortium in the interests of science against spin. The science will prove that there is no single environmental justification for the proposed Scottish Carrier Bag Tax.

Westminster came to this conclusion in 2002, now the Scottish Parliament has to decide what is best for the Scottish people.



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