

Proposal to Ban the Manufacture and Sale of Plastic-Stemmed Cotton Buds in Scotland – Consultation Response

22 June 2018

Question 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 Consumer Futures Unit, part of Citizens Advice Scotland, uses research and evidence to put consumers at the heart of policy and regulation in the energy, post and water sectors in Scotland. We work with government, regulators and business to put consumers first, designing policy and practice around their needs and aspirations.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the proposal to ban the manufacture and sale of plastic-stemmed cotton buds in Scotland.

We believe that a ban will not only reduce the use of single use plastic in Scotland, but also support a change in the way that consumers purchase goods and services. In addition, it will decrease the amount of plastic waste that makes its way into the public sewerage system. Plastic waste contributes to infrastructure and environmental issues such as blockages, which cost Scotland's water industry, and ultimately paying customers, £6 million per year to remove, and also results in sewerage litter on public beaches. Banning plastic stemmed cotton buds will therefore achieve environmental, economic and social benefits, delivering a more positive experience for those visiting Scotland's coastal communities and their local economies.

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

N/A

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

N/A