

Submission by David Forshaw-19 August 2025

The responsibility for the fate of soft plastics must be with the retailer and manufacturer. There is so much excess packaging within packaging that could be avoided from the beginning. So minimum um packaging requirements would be a good initiative.. Examples include biscuits, cheese, chocolates and vegetables. Also biodegradable plant based packaging seems to be possible so we should encourage the use of these but still with a minimum packaging as energy and pollution due to collection and processing can be avoided. Change will only occur/be effective if there are mainstream alternatives to consumers who are looking for them. Supermarkets are key to this with the influence they have over their suppliers so packaging regulations should be aimed at both manufacturers and supermarkets. Supermarkets have been so slow to acknowledge the environmental harm of their practices (think how long it took to outlaw plastic bags at the checkout). One way to institute change would be regulation compliance checks and hefty fines but it would be better for the public good to be the driving motive. More pressure from consumers will help so public/school education aimed at changing behaviour must be ramped up but also getting to supermarket executives and boards somehow to educate them on the harm caused might be good. There must also be an business advantage to leading the way?! Wishful thinking? Probably.