

**Submission by Justine Rowe-26 August 2025**

I support a soft plastic stewardship scheme in theory, but it needs to be outlined with strong, fair conditions that do not continue to line the pockets of supermarkets and big brands. We need strong, measurable targets that also include transitioning packaging AWAY from soft plastics, particularly with the supermarkets who have the option to encourage bulk shopping and bag-less produce and other goods. Consumers are already footing the bill and feeling the effects of the plastic crisis, they should not also be forced to foot the bill when we know the supermarkets and big brands can afford it. We want to see the levy be used for environmental benefit and a scheme that drives innovation and does not see recycling soft plastics as the way out of this crisis (it's not). The only way out is to TURN OFF the plastics tap and transition to reusable packaging. We need soft plastics recycling only for the residual, rather than as a scheme to continue encouraging increased production of plastics in any form.