Dear Neil,

RESULTS FROM THE SINGLE-USE CARRIER BAGS CHARGE 2017-18

I am writing to let you know that the second full year’s data under the Single Use Carrier Bags Charges (England) Order 2015 has now been published on data.gov.uk.

For the period 7 April 2017 to 6 April 2018, the overall number of single use carrier bags (which may include some reusable bags) sold by the 249 retailers who registered and reported data was 1.75 billion. This is a decrease from the results from 2016-17 (2.12 billion).

Of this, around 7 main retailers (Asda, Marks and Spencer, Morrisons, Sainsbury, The Co-operative Group, Tesco and Waitrose) sold 1.0 billion single use plastic carrier bags in England in 2017 to 2018, compared to 1.3 billion in 2016 to 2017. This is a decrease of 289 million bags (22%). These 7 retailers account for around 60% of the total bags reported by all retailers for 2017 to 2018. The charge has also raised at least £58.5 million for good causes, including environmental, educational, health, arts and heritage.

The Carrier Bags charge continues to prove to be effective with reductions in single use bags in circulation, not only for our environment but for good causes across the country. It shows small actions can make the biggest difference, but we must not be complacent as there is always more we can all do to reduce waste and recycle what we use.


Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

DR THERESE COFFEY MP

Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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