

Budget 2016
Pre-Budget Submission
September 2015



Proposal 2: Compulsory glass bottle deposit scheme

Main Submission

Formed after a large public meeting in 1998, the Galway Cycling Campaign exists to promote the interests of ordinary everyday bicycle users. Our aims include: safer conditions for cycling, planning that gives equal priority to all road users, improvement of facilities, secure parking for bikes, and recognising the rights and responsibilities of all road users. This is our second proposal for Budget 2016.

Moving motor vehicles have a "sweeping" effect that pushes broken glass, gravel and grit to the edge of the roadway. Cycle lanes and cycle tracks are parts of the road that no longer get "swept" by passing cars, so they automatically collect more of these.

Roadside cycle paths in particular can be hard to reach for the usual Irish road-sweeping vehicles, and many are notorious for collecting broken glass. One UK study found that cycle track users are seven times more likely than road cyclists to get punctures.ⁱ



Some Irish cycle facilities are notorious for collecting broken glass

The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark all have deposit schemes on glass bottles, but Ireland does not. It is our view that to support the Government's Smarter Travel programmes, Ireland needs to introduce compulsory deposits on glass bottles.

ⁱ Franklin, J. (1999). Two decades of the Redway cycle paths of Milton Keynes. *Traffic Engineering and Control*, Aug. 1999.