

ATTENTION EXHIBITORS

URGENT – COMPLIANCE WITH THE NORTHERN IRELAND CARRIER BAG LEVY

BALMORAL SHOW 13 – 16 MAY 2026

Staff from the Carrier Bag Levy Team have carried out visits to exhibitors at the Balmoral Show over recent years and following some non-compliance that was discovered last year, will be attending again this year.

As a seller you must fully comply with the Carrier Bag Regulations in Northern Ireland. The Regulations give the Department clear powers to apply a range of civil sanctions where breaches of non-compliance have been uncovered, particularly where non-charging is taking place.

Customer Relations Managers from the team were in attendance at the show last year and advice and guidance was given to some retailers where non-compliance was discovered. If non-compliance is discovered this year, consideration will be given to the Department taking formal enforcement action which can carry a penalty of up to £10,000.

As an exhibitor at the Balmoral show, if you are **SELLING** goods and **DISPENSING BAGS** you **MUST** charge the 25p levy. Responsibility for registration and payment lies with each individual seller and you must register online via email at carrierbaglevy@daera-ni.gov.uk or by directly contacting the Team on 02877 442056. Once registered, you will be able to make online returns and pay the proceeds of the levy collected to The Carrier Bag Levy Team, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

In Northern Ireland, the Carrier Bag Levy has been in operation since April 2013 and under the legislation, it is a statutory requirement for **ALL** sellers to charge the 25p levy for **ALL** carrier bags supplied to customers, regardless of what material the bags are made from. Under the Regulations, **ALL** bags which are supplied to customers at a price of £5 or less must include the 25p levy and the proceeds must then be paid directly to the DAERA.

There are some exemptions which are mainly on the grounds of hygiene, food safety, and the protection of goods and consumers. Further information is available on our website at www.nidirect.gov.uk/baglevy.

This year Customer Relations Managers will be in attendance on Tuesday 12th May, when retailers are setting up their stalls to ensure all retailers are registered and aware of their obligation under the Regulations and then every day during the show, monitoring bag usage and compliance. If you wish to speak directly to any of the Customer Relations Managers, this can be arranged by contacting the Carrier Bag Levy Team on 02877442056.

As a Department, our key messages to protect the Environment are to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and as such we encourage all visitors to the show to bring their own bag(s).

Thank you for your time and co-operation and we hope you enjoy the 2026 Balmoral Show.



Michael McCallion

Head of the Carrier Bag Levy Team

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs



Department of

**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**