



Department  
for Environment,  
Food & Rural Affairs

Mary Creagh CBE MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Nature

Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577  
E: [correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk)  
W: [gov.uk/defra](http://gov.uk/defra)

Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Our ref: PO2025/10794/SS

[netzero.committee@Parliament.Scot](mailto:netzero.committee@Parliament.Scot)

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

Dear Edward,

Thank you for your letter of 9 May about the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and for your invitation to provide evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

As you are aware, these statutory instruments are essential for ensuring that the DRS in Scotland is consistent in design and interoperable with the DRS we are introducing in England and Northern Ireland. I fully support the smooth passage of the legislation through the Scottish Parliament and note the hard work across the UK nations that has gone into getting the DRS to this point.

I am reassured to see the Committee undertaking this scrutiny before disposing of the Scottish Government's motion and I am grateful to you for the invitation to provide evidence to the Committee on progressing with DRS across the UK. Unfortunately, I will not be accepting this invitation on this occasion due to diary constraints.

However, I wanted to reiterate the UK Government's support for launching DRS in October 2027. We will continue to work closely with devolved governments across the sector and now with the UK Deposit Management Organisation (DMO), to ensure the smooth implementation of the DRS for businesses and consumers and to resolve any issues as they arise.

As I am sure you are aware, in November 2024 the Welsh Government withdrew from the four-nation DRS approach. Whilst the UK Government's preference is for Welsh Government to rejoin the four-nation approach, we respect their devolved competence on this policy area. We are listening to industry's views to see where we can support and ensure the success of DRS. My officials and I remain in close working partnership with Welsh Government as they make decisions regarding a DRS in Wales. We have kept the door open to providing as much interoperability of schemes across the UK as possible through our regulations and appointment of the UK DMO.

Thank you once again for the invitation to provide evidence to the committee and if you have any specific questions then I would be happy to come back to you in writing.

**MARY CREAGH CBE MP**