23 February 2016

Dear Rob,

Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland

I am pleased to advise the Committee that I have today published ‘Making Things Last – A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland’.

This follows on from our public consultation last year on draft proposals for a more circular economy in Scotland, and I have been impressed by the level of useful engagement we have had in response, not only from the resource management sector and local authorities, but from the general public and the wider business community.

This strategy sets out our priorities for moving towards a more circular economy – where products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible. It builds on our progress in the zero waste and resource efficiency agendas, and articulates our ambitions for:

- **Preventing waste** and using resources more efficiently, with a new target to cut food waste.
- More products being **designed** for longer lifetimes, ready to be disassembled, repaired and eventually recycled.
- **Reuse** and **repair** becoming more mainstream, with thriving reuse businesses and community organisations.
- Scotland’s strategically important **remanufacturing** sector fulfilling its potential for growth.
- **Recycling** becoming routine in every business and household, with recycling rates and quality improving.
- A more comprehensive approach to **producer responsibility** for all product types, incentivising design for repair, reuse and recyclability.
- Scotland to be an international leader in the efficient use of **biological resources**.
- **Communicating** with people in a way that helps them see the true value in the products and materials they use.
• Embedding the development of new **skills** and thinking in the next generation of designers, business leaders and innovators.
• Improving our understanding of how products and materials flow through our economy to **measure progress** and identify opportunities.

Our recent work on the Scottish Household Recycling Charter reflected a truly collaborative approach to policy making between national and local government, with support from business, industry and the third sector. I want to continue and extend that partnership, in particular to work with environmental NGOs, to help people understand that our resources are finite, and our patterns of consumption need to be sustainable. This work is important for Scotland’s longer term economic future. As you know, this approach could generate significant economic benefits for Scotland. Remanufacturing alone has the potential to create an additional £620 million turnover and 5,700 new jobs by 2020.

I am grateful to you and your colleagues on the Committee for your interest in and willingness to engage with the work that I and my officials have been doing to take forward the circular economy agenda in Scotland. We know that partnership will continue to be key in achieving our ambitions.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Lochhead

RICHARD LOCHHEAD