

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs

2 March 2026

Dear Huw,

The Deposit Scheme for Drinks Containers (Wales) Regulations 2026

During the Committee's 25 February meeting, we considered correspondence from the Wine and Spirit Association (WSTA) and British Glass on The Deposit Scheme for Drinks Containers (Wales) Regulations 2026 (the draft Regulations).

We understand that the draft Regulations will be scheduled for debate in late March. Given the Committee's current work commitments, we are not in a position to consider the draft Regulations in any meaningful way to report on them ahead of the debate. However, the Committee agreed that I should write to you setting out our high-level position on the draft Regulations and requesting a response on matters raised in correspondence that are relevant to our remit. A list of questions is included in an Annex.

The Committee has been a strong advocate for the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in Wales. We have expressed frustration at the continued delay to a DRS, emphasising the need for the Welsh Government to introduce the scheme at the earliest opportunity. The draft Regulations are, therefore, a welcome step forward.

We are pleased the draft Regulations provide for the scheme to commence from 1 October 2027, ensuring alignment with the rest of the UK, and deliver on the Welsh Government's long-standing commitment to include glass drinks containers.

We note the purpose of the four-year transition period for glass drink containers is to provide industry with sufficient time to adapt to the scheme's requirements. We consider this a pragmatic approach to avoid further delay to the scheme's introduction. Notwithstanding this, we acknowledge that concerns remain within industry about the scheme's scope. We emphasise the importance of



continued engagement with industry and other delivery partners to ensure a smooth and effective transition.

I am copying this letter to Mike Hendges MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

I should be grateful to receive a response as soon as possible and preferably by 16 March 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Annex: Questions on impact of inclusion of glass drink containers

1. How do you respond to WSTA's assertion that "Introducing a glass-in DRS could additionally undermine environmental aims by increasing vehicular emissions and incentivising a shift from sustainable glass to less recyclable packaging formats"?
2. How do you respond to British Glass' assertion that the inclusion of glass drink containers could lead to:
 - i. "Sourcing 'cheaper' glass beverage packaging imports that can absorb policy costs, reducing recycled content of the products, increasing their carbon footprint of those products, and displacing UK supply chains."
 - ii. "Switching of products into plastic or other materials, many of which negatively impact on human health, the environment, and are less recyclable than glass."
3. According to British Glass, the draft Regulations "leave many unanswered but critical questions" (set out below). It would be helpful if you could respond to each in turn.
 - iii. "Will Producers face costs for DRS glass collection during the 0p deposit period?"
 - iv. "If glass is to exempt [sic] from packaging Extended Producer Responsibility under DRS from October 2027, why are Producers still paying pEPR fees now, unlike other metal and plastic beverage packaging in all UK nations that are exempt from pEPR fees?"
 - v. "How will the system interact with existing kerbside collection? Will the Deposit Management Organisation (DMO) have to reimburse Local Authorities for collecting glass beverage packaging from the kerbside, and if so, how will this be calculated to ensure that glass producers do not continue to pay for both collection systems?"
 - vi. "Given the 0p deposit, an 80% return target for glass beverage packaging by 2030 is very high, will Producers face a fine if this is not met?"