

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-750
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01388/17

David Rowlands AM
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4 July 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 19 June 2017 regarding petition P-05-750 for single use items to introduce a Deposit Return System for drink containers and make fast food containers and utensils compostable.

The review of our waste strategy will look at how well Wales has performed against targets set in Towards Zero Waste (TZW) and against the delivery of the Well-Being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFGA).

The 2013 Waste and Resources Action Programme/ElLEN MacArthur Foundation report 'Wales and the Circular Economy - Favourable System Conditions and Economic Opportunities' identifies potential savings to the Welsh economy. The report suggests how this may contribute towards a resource efficient and low-carbon economy, reducing costs and supply chain risks, while generating economic and social value. This will be considered as part of the review and as part of the refresh of the Waste Strategy.

The evaluation and subsequent refresh of the waste strategy will help identify opportunities for the public and private sector to maximise financial, social and environmental benefits as a result of adopting changes in practices under the banner of circular economy and resource efficiency.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) research will consider examples of EPR approaches for the life cycle of packaging from design through to end of life. It will also investigate the feasibility and options for developing EPR schemes for food and drink related packaging. This will include research on Deposit Return Systems and Reverse Vending Machine Systems. The research will also appraise the costs and benefits of different interventions from increasing recycling and reducing littering to the costs of collection and treatment of food and drink related packaging.

The research will also assess the likely impacts of EPR schemes, both positive and negative as well as any potential unintended consequences thus ensuring alignment to the Well-being Goals to balance short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs. The research will be carried out with consideration of the Welsh Government's key policy drivers and legislative priorities.

We will continue to work with stakeholders to develop stakeholder engagement plans to ensure meaningful and early engagement with key stakeholders. We will carry out a stakeholder engagement event prior to the consultation on the refresh of TZW.

Our programme for Wales '*Taking Wales Forward*' sets out how Government will deliver more and better jobs through a stronger, fairer economy, improve and reform our public services, and build a united, connected and sustainable Wales. The refresh of the Waste Strategy and the EPR research will focus on ensuring the ambitious aims of the Programme for Government are met through the development of new policy and targets.



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