

Mark Drakeford AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid
Cabinet Secretary for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00548/18
David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

5 November 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 10 October, regarding the petition P-05-803 on taxing single-use plastics. I welcome your continued interest in the development of a potential tax to tackle unnecessary plastic use and the associated pollution created by plastics waste.

Since my last letter to you in July, we have continued to work with UK Government on the development of proposals for potential taxation measures drawing on the responses and evidence to the call for evidence earlier this year.

Since announcing the Welsh Government's priorities for potential new Welsh taxes, which included a possible disposable plastics tax, we have been working with UK Government to consider the responses to its call for evidence. We have worked with Welsh businesses, experts and the wider stakeholder community to ensure we identify the right approach for Wales while ensuring that Wales' interests and needs are reflected in the development of the UK Government's proposals. The UK Government's call for evidence concluded in May and received 162,000 responses – clearly demonstrating the level of public interest on this matter. A summary of findings was published in August [<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tackling-the-plastic-problem>].

In the UK Budget announcement on 29 October, the Chancellor confirmed UK Government plans to introduce a tax on the production and import of plastic packaging from April 2022, alongside already planned reforms to the Packaging Producer Responsibility system. Both reforms will be subject to consultation this year. The UK Government also concluded that a levy on all cups at this point would not be effective in encouraging widespread reuse given businesses are already taking steps to limit their environmental impact. The Chancellor also confirmed the UK Government is intending to include more information on the approach to tackle the environmental impact of cups in the Resources and Waste Strategy.

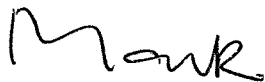
I will be assessing the detail of the UK Government's approach following the UK Budget. It is important the Welsh Government continues to contribute to this process, while garnering the views of Welsh stakeholders to inform responses to future consultations on the UK

Government's proposals. We will also continue to work with businesses and wider stakeholder community to develop our own ideas. We remain committed to tackling unnecessary plastic use and the associated pollution it can cause.

We will continue to work closely with HM Treasury, Defra and the other devolved administrations to develop joined up policy for the other initiatives being developed in relation to deposit return schemes, bans on specific problematic plastic items and the reform of existing legislation for packaging waste; alongside developments at an EU level.

I welcome your contribution to this process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark', written in a cursive style.

Mark Drakeford AM/AC

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid
Cabinet Secretary for Finance