

Huw Irranca-Davies MS,
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Climate Change and Rural Affairs

25 July 2025

Dear Huw,

Deposit Return Scheme

As you know, the Committee has taken a keen interest in the on-going development of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). Following your [written statement on 10 July 2025](#), we would welcome a response to the questions set out below.

1. You have said that the decision to change the scope and timescale of the Welsh DRS was taken in response to industry concerns around the added complexity and cost of misaligning the Welsh DRS scope and introduction timescale with other UK nations. Did you consult with industry before making the original decision to misalign last November? If so, were these concerns raised with you at the time?
2. You say that you will “accelerate our implementation timetable to align with the rest of the UK, which would provide for interoperability between common materials”. Do you therefore expect a Welsh DRS to commence by October 2027?
3. Do you intend to introduce DRS Regulations, as has been the case in Scotland, England, and Northern Ireland? If so, when do you expect to do this?
4. In terms of materials and processes (i.e. recycling or reuse), what will be the initial scope of the Welsh DRS?
5. Do you intend for the Welsh DRS be overseen by the UK Deposit Management Organisation Limited, which has been approved to run the DRSs in England, Northern Ireland, and Scotland?



6. You have said "Glass remains in scope of our scheme". Can you clarify whether glass will form part of the Welsh DRS when it is introduced? If not, when do you expect to expand the Welsh DRS to include glass?

7. In its response to the Review of the UK Internal Market Act 2020 and public consultation, the UK Government has said environmental protection impacts/benefits (and public health impacts/benefits) will in future be considered alongside economic factors for a proposed exclusion from the Act. Does this affect the Welsh Government's position not to seek an exclusion for the Welsh DRS, including glass?

8. Your written statement says, "industry have highlighted the need for a phased approach within which there would be no requirement to have different labelling and no fraud risk". What are the practical impacts of this on your ambitions for a DRS that goes beyond the scope of that outlined by the other UK nations? Is it therefore impossible for Wales to misalign by going beyond the ambition of the rest of the UK?

Regards,



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

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