



Ein cyf/Our ref IM/HB/05441/19

Assembly Members

22 July 2019

Dear Assembly Member,

PACKAGING REFORM – AN UPDATE

I recently issued a Written Statement on Plastic Waste. As I know that Members are keenly interested in this area, I wanted to write to you to update you on some important developments in respect of packaging reform.

I am sure that like me, you are proud of the fact that Wales is a high recycling society. However, particularly in the context of a climate crisis, there is a need to do more by moving to a more circular economy where waste is avoided and resources are kept in use as long as possible.

Since taking over responsibility for waste and recycling, I have been working on the next steps needed to build on our approach to recycling and accelerate this transition to a circular economy. As a key part of this work, we recently consulted jointly with the UK Government, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Executive on proposals to introduce Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging and with the UK Government and Northern Ireland Executive on the proposals for a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers.

The summaries from the consultations on EPR and DRS and the government response will be published shortly. I very much welcome the level of public awareness and the enthusiasm for action, with the consultation on DRS attracting over 208,000 responses across the UK. The outcome from the consultations indicated widespread support for the proposed policy approach. The next step will now be to develop the proposals in more detail before a further consultation on the regulatory changes that will be required before implementation. In doing so, I will be working to ensure that the final approach is right for Wales and complements the progress that we have made to date.

This latest consultation further underlines our overarching commitment to the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging, following on from the research commissioned in 2017 which recommended this approach. This is a key step which will incentivise a reduction in the use of materials and better use of resources, both of which are

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Hannah.Blythyn@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Hannah.Blythyn@gov.wales

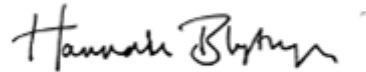
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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

key elements to both our transition towards a more circular economy and taking action on climate change.

I would like to thank Members for your contributions to this work to date and I welcome your continued engagement as we proceed to the next stage.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hannah Blythyn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small mark at the end.

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol

Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government