



**Department
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The Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP
From the Secretary of State

Thank you for your letter of 7 October and the offer of assistance in helping to make the plastic bag charge as effective as possible.

I agree that there is a real opportunity to guide how the proceeds of the charge are spent by the retailers. While I cannot mandate the retailers to spend the proceeds on specific causes, I would be interested to hear your suggestions of how they could deliver important landscape conservation.

We are still analysing how the charges have worked in Wales and Northern Ireland, though we are encouraged by their success. I will shortly be launching a Call for Evidence on how this charge could and should work. I hope that BASC will be able to respond, particularly on this point.

In the interim, further queries can be directed to [redacted] in my Department at [redacted]

THE RT HON OWEN PATERSON MP



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**