

07th October 2013

Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP
Defra
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR



Dear Secretary of State

Plastic bag charge and landscape scale conservation

On behalf of BASC's members could I again thank you for addressing our reception in Manchester. Your continued and practical support for both shooting and conservation is highly appreciated and it is with the latter in mind that I write to offer our assistance in drafting any guiding principles that will underpin the distribution of the proceeds from the plastic bag charging scheme.

It is our understanding that government expects the charging scheme in England to follow the Welsh model in which retailers voluntarily give profits to charity. While this has benefited many local projects, we feel that the voluntary agreement between the Welsh Government and large retailers missed an opportunity to deliver landscape scale benefits.

We feel this could most easily be addressed by developing a set of principles that would better harness the efforts of the shooting community who are involved in the management of two thirds of the UK's rural areas. BASC would welcome the opportunity to work with the Department as details of the scheme are agreed and we would be grateful if you could put us in touch with the officials working on the charging scheme.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation Limited
Registered Industrial & Provident Society No 28488R

Patron: HRH The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG KT

President: The Earl of Home, CVO CBE

Chairman: Martyn J R Howat

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The Voice of Shooting