



**British Glass**

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24th March 2021

***Industry support for keeping glass bottles out of a DRS***

Dear Secretary of State,

As a collection of businesses and organisations from across the packaging, waste and resource supply chain, we the undersigned are calling on government to exclude glass bottles from the proposed Deposit Return Scheme currently being considered by UK, Welsh and Northern Irish governments.

The UK glass industry contributes around £1.3bn to the UK economy each year and provides more than 120,000 jobs across the supply chain. We are proud of the work our industry has done to help achieve an excellent record of 76.5% of glass collected for recycling, but we know there is more to do.

Glass is one of the most sustainable materials on earth. It is endlessly recyclable and can be melted and re-melted without ever reducing its quality. Making new glass from recycled glass reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy use, with every tonne of glass re-melted saving 580 kg of carbon dioxide emissions.

While we support the concept of Deposit Return Schemes as a mechanism to increase the recovery of certain types of packaging, it is not the right solution for glass in the UK. Running two glass collection systems in parallel makes recycling confusing and more cumbersome for consumers, it would increase associated vehicle emissions, and risks less glass being recycled as a result of a complicated dual system.

Alarming, international evidence suggests that including glass bottles in such a DRS scheme incentivises the use of plastic packaging, leading to an increase in the amount of single use plastics on the market. At the same time, countries such as Belgium, The Netherlands, Norway and Sweden have shown it is possible to achieve a circa 90% glass collected for recycling rate by running a system of Extended Producer Responsibility, dedicated household and bottle bank collections, and consistent communications, alongside a DRS for other materials.

In addition, Wales' kerbside recycling system can be used as a blueprint for success. By creating a national culture of recycling through education, communication and consistent collections, Wales has the third highest household recycling rate in the world, including an 87.3% capture rate of glass collected at the kerbside.

We already have a system in place to deliver a high quantity and quality of recycled glass, and it is at our doorsteps. We fully accept more needs to be done to increase household glass recycling and are collectively keen to work with governments on how best to consider this as part of the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme. This will ensure we are putting in place the right measures to increase the quality and quantity of recycling for the long-term - delivering on our shared ambition to create a truly circular economy.

Yours sincerely

Dave Dalton,  
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