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for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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[REDACTED]

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your joint letter of 24 March to the Secretary of State calling for the exclusion of glass bottles from the proposed Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

I would firstly like to take the opportunity to thank your industry for the continued work and contribution you make to the economy and many other industries reliant on the glass sector. As you note, we already have a strong capture rate of glass for recycling, but we recognise there is more to do to improve on this, and I am reassured that you recognise this too.

As you will be aware, in 2019 the UK Government consulted on introducing a DRS for drinks containers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Since glass is a material which is commonly used for drinks containers, we proposed that one of the materials included in the scope of a DRS could be glass bottles.

From responses to the consultation, there was strong support for inclusion of glass in a DRS (86% favoured their inclusion). However, we recognise the concerns raised by industry on the inclusion of glass, both through responses to the consultation and in subsequent stakeholder engagement, that build on a number of the points you have mentioned in your letter.

Since the 2019 consultation, we have conducted further cost benefit analysis on the inclusion of glass in a DRS. The interim findings demonstrate that the inclusion of glass in the long term has a higher value than not including glass in the scheme, given the potential for increased collection and recycling and the resulting greater reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The UK has an excellent kerbside collection system in place, but glass bottles collected in this way are still vulnerable to cross contamination from other materials. Including glass in a DRS would reduce this cross contamination and result in more, higher quality glass being available for recycling.

We have continued developing proposals for a DRS for drinks containers using further evidence and ongoing engagement with stakeholders, and a second consultation on the topic was published on 24 March. This consultation is currently live and includes further information on the specific details of our proposed scheme, including the materials we propose to be included in scope (PET plastic bottles, glass bottles, and aluminium and steel cans).

Thank you once again for your letter and continued engagement with the Department on this policy area. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance with this or any other matters in the future.



**REBECCA POW MP**