

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Dear Convener,

We are writing on behalf of the UK Deposit Management Organisation (UK DMO) following your Committee's recent evidence session on the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) regulations. We watched the session with interest and would like to thank you and your colleagues for the constructive and detailed scrutiny given to this important issue.

As the proposed designated scheme administrator, our task is to design and deliver the Deposit Return Scheme across England, Northern Ireland and Scotland. With our role having only just been confirmed, the organisation is of course in its infancy. We are now beginning the process of establishing the team and operational infrastructure required to deliver the scheme. This includes building the logistics network, setting deposit levels, and preparing the systems that will support producers, retailers and consumers alike. While many elements of the scheme's design are still to be developed, we are fully committed to ensuring that DRS is workable, inclusive, and delivers real environmental benefits.

We recognise many of the concerns raised during the Committee session including the exclusion of glass, closed-loop systems, the need for return point guidance and for fair handling fees. We also heard the clear call for robust consultation, particularly with small producers and retailers, rural operators, and those serving more remote communities. We will be consulting closely on these areas and welcome input from the Committee and its members as part of that process.

We agree that this scheme must be designed to work for everyone, from the largest producers to the smallest shops in island communities. That is why the DMO Board has been constructed to reflect a broad range of voices, including small and independent retailers. We are also establishing an Advisory Group and Consumer Engagement Forum to ensure that a diversity of views continues to inform our work as we build out the operational blueprint.

We are committed to maintaining open lines of communication with the Scottish Parliament and stakeholders across Scotland as our plans progress. Should the Committee have any questions or require further information, we would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely,

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