



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
From the Secretary of State for Environment, Food
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Thank you for your letter of 29 March, inviting me to a Ministerial summit to develop a coordinated approach to deposit return schemes for drinks containers. I strongly agree that this is an area of environmental policy where we can maximise benefits through the UK nations working together.

I note that our next Ministerial EU Exit meeting is on 14 May and is taking place in Edinburgh. I suggest that we extend the agenda to discuss deposit return schemes at that meeting. It would also be an excellent opportunity to publish our joint statement of ambition for the UK environment, demonstrating our collective desire to collaborate on environmental issues.

If you agree, I will ask my officials to work with yours and those from Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Civil Service to plan for the 14 May meeting on that basis.

I am copying this letter to Welsh Government ministers Lesley Griffiths AM and Hannah Blythyn AM, and Denis McMahon, Northern Ireland Civil Service, Lord Duncan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office and Stuart Andrew MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales Office.

With every good wish,

Yours, as ever,

Michael Gove