

**From:** (Redacted)  
**To:** [Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity](#)  
**Cc:** [Director of Environment & Forestry; Carmichael K \(Katriona\)](#); (Redacted)  
**Subject:** RE: DRS - Revised Briefing - Lorna Slater - Monthly Meeting with CSL - 25 October 2022 (A41089228)  
**Date:** 25 October 2022 11:59:00  
**Attachments:** [DRS - Briefing - Lorna Slater - Monthly Meeting with CSL - 25 October 2022 \(002\).docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

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PS Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity,

Following a request from <sup>(Redacted)</sup> for some additional lines please find attached a revised briefing pack for the meeting this afternoon.

(Redacted)

(Redacted)

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**From:** (Redacted)  
**Sent:** 25 October 2022 10:20  
**To:** Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity  
<MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Carmichael K (Katriona) (Redacted)

**Subject:** DRS - Briefing - Lorna Slater - Monthly Meeting with CSL - 25 October 2022 (A41089228)  
**Importance:** High

PS Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity,

Please find attached briefing for the meeting today at 16:00 with CSL.

(Redacted)

<< File: DRS - Briefing - Lorna Slater - Monthly Meeting with CSL - 25 October 2022.docx  
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(Redacted)



**MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENT BRIEFING:  
LORNA SLATER, MINISTER FOR GREEN SKILLS, CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND  
BIODIVERSITY  
Monthly meeting with CSL**

<b>What</b>	This is the October monthly meeting with Circularity Scotland Ltd (CSL) to update you on their progress implementing Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)
<b>Where</b>	Microsoft Teams Click here to join the meeting
<b>When</b>	25 October 2022 16:00 – 17:00
<b>Key Message(s) and structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I know that achieving a cost-efficient return network is currently your top priority. My officials continue to work with you to help achieve this.</li> <li>(Redacted)</li> <li>I am grateful for the work you have been doing (Redacted)</li> </ul> <p>Critical that we have a simple and reliable method for managing <u>blackspots</u>.</p>
<b>Who</b>	(Redacted)
<b>Why</b>	This is an opportunity to discuss progress on implementing DRS.
<b>Expected outcome</b>	You are assured that CSL are taking the appropriate steps to implement and de-risk the scheme in time for launch in August next year.
<b>Supporting officials</b>	(Redacted) DRS Unit Mobile: (Redacted)  Katriona Carmichael, Deputy Director, Circular Economy Division  (Redacted) , Deposit Return Scheme Team (Redacted)
<b>Briefing contents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Annex A:</b> Proposed meeting structure &amp; top lines</li> </ul>
<b>Media Handling / Social Media</b>	N/A

**MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENT BRIEFING:  
LORNA SLATER, MINISTER FOR GREEN SKILLS, CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND  
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**ANNEX A**

**Agenda (with suggested timings)**

- |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>1. Progress update</b>            | <b>(5 mins: 16.00-16.05)</b>   |
| <b>2. Critical discussion points</b> | <b>(35 mins, 16:05--16:40)</b> |
| a. RPO Exemptions                    |                                |
| b. VAT                               |                                |
| (Redacted)                           |                                |
| d. Takeback scope reduction          |                                |
| (Redacted)                           |                                |
| <b>4. AOB / Date of Next Meeting</b> |                                |

*You will chair.*

**1. Progress update (16:00 – 16:05)**

**Purpose:** Opportunity for CSL to provide you with an update on their delivery progress.

**Key Messages/Conversational Points**

- **Invite CSL to update on their delivery progress.**
- Welcome progress made.
- Note that **businesses continue to highlight that they lack key operational information**. Officials have shared requests from businesses with CSL.
- (Redacted)

**2. Critical discussion points (16:05 – 16.40)**

CSL has asked to discuss the following topics:

***a. Reducing the cost of scheme operation – RPO Exemptions***

**Purpose:** To provide assurance that understand the importance of this topic, and that you intend to confirm the updated approach this week.

**Key Messages/Conversational Points**

- **My officials will provide me with final advice for decision this week.**

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LORNA SLATER, MINISTER FOR GREEN SKILLS, CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND  
BIODIVERSITY**

**Monthly meeting with CSL**

- We will need to use the existing exemptions system to reduce the number of return points. My officials have been working with you closely on our potential approach, and the steps you can take to work with retailers.
- **I cannot move forward with a decision until I better understand what you will do to mitigate any resulting gaps to access. Can you share any details on this?**
- We are committed to supporting the updated exemption process to help achieve a deliverable and cost efficient scheme.

(Redacted)



**b. VAT – (Redacted)**

**Purpose:** To understand the implications of the VAT delay for CSL, and what mitigating actions are possible.

Key Messages/Conversational Points

• (Redacted)

- We have engaged with UK Government at all levels over the last few weeks to emphasise the impact of this delay.
- We are pushing for a temporary VAT exemption until the UK DRS scheme comes into force, to mitigate the risks.
- If this approach is not accepted, **what additional actions do you view as necessary** to be ready for next August?

(Redacted)



(Redacted)

Key Messages/Conversational Points

- tbc

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(Redacted)

***d. Takeback scope reduction***

**Purpose:** CSL are seeking to ensure that the revised online takeback model is not expensive or environmentally unfriendly.

*Key Messages/Conversational Points*

- Takeback service is a vital part of the scheme which will protect access to DRS for consumers who depend on online deliveries.
- Officials have discussed the proposed approach to takeback with CSL. The revised approach seeks to provide further flexibility for retailers to provide an efficient service.
- We believe that a core takeback service is deliverable by next August, and are working with retailers to understand what this could look like.
- **What can CSL do** to support an online takeback service?

(Redacted)

*Key Messages/Conversational Points*

■ (Redacted)

■

■

■

(Redacted)

**MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENT BRIEFING:  
LORNA SLATER, MINISTER FOR GREEN SKILLS, CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND  
BIODIVERSITY**

**Monthly meeting with CSL**

• (Redacted)

**6. AOB / Date of Next Meeting (16:55-17:00)**

- The next meeting is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> November, but may need to be rearranged to accommodate the DRS conference.

**From:** (Redacted)  
**To:** (Redacted)  
**Cc:** (Redacted)  
**Subject:** Minister meeting 25OCT22.pptx  
**Date:** 23 October 2022 10:46:12  
**Attachments:** [Minister meeting 25OCT22.pptx](#)

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Hi (Redacted)

Please find attached the agenda for the call with the Minister next week.

Best wishes

(Redacted)



## **Monthly meeting with Circularity Scotland Ltd**

**25 October 2022**

**16:00 – 17:00**

**By MS Teams**

### **Attendees**

Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy & Biodiversity  
(Redacted)

Katriona Carmichael, Scottish Government  
(Redacted)

### **Summary meeting note**

After a general progress update, discussion focussed on a set key issues including guidance on return point exemptions, VAT and the online takeback model.

(Redacted)

(Redacted)

A big issue on cutover is how the customer is guided through it. This means that CSL will not want to overdo launch in August. DRS will be a scheme that builds.  
(Redacted)