

Copies of correspondence between the Scottish Government and Circularity Scotland between 1 February 2023 and 14 February 2023:

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 February 2023 17:14
To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT - EIR - 202300337696 - Circularity Scotland Limited

Hi Redacted

Many thanks for coming back so quickly, I have updated our statement of compliance with your documents.

With apologies I would be grateful for your consideration of this minute also.

Thanks

Redacted

Redacted | Circular Economy Unit | Scottish Government | Area 3H South| Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ|

□ Redacted | □ Redacted@gov.scot |

-----Original Message-----

From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Sent: 12 February 2023 18:37
To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT - EIR - 202300337696 - Circularity Scotland Limited

Hi Redacted

Please see attached both minutes with our comments.

Best wishes

Redacted

-----Original Message-----

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 10 February 2023 16:02
To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted@gov.scot
Subject: URGENT - EIR - 202300337696 - Circularity Scotland Limited

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Good afternoon,

I hope you are both well?

I am helping coordinate the following request under EIR: -

"Any minutes from meetings involving Scottish Government ministers (Patrick Harvie MSP and Lorna Slater MSP) that discuss the Deposit Return Scheme, due to come into effect on August 2023, between August 2022 to December 2022".

Attached are two minutes of meetings you have held with Ms Slater in that timeframe. I would be grateful if you could review both notes and confirm if you are content with the release of these as they are. If you would like any information redacted, please provide advice as to why and I will consider any relevant exceptions under EIR that can be applied.

With apologies for the short deadline but to allow us to progress the case urgently I would be grateful if you could respond by close of business on Tuesday 14 February. If no response is received by then I will progress the case through the clearance channels we have in place.

Happy to discuss via teams or telephone but I am on leave on Monday.

Thanks

Redacted

From: Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 February 2023 15:33
To: Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>
Cc: Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Letter from Redacted, Circularity Scotland to Retailers

Minister – in advance of our meeting with large retailer CEOs tmrw am, and as discussed with CSL this am, please see attached the letter from Redacted to the TESCO CEO responding to the issues raised by the CEOs. I understand that similar letters have been sent to all the large retailer CEOs. Redacted will consolidate this into a RAG dashboard for the CEOs mtg tomorrow as discussed.

Kevin

Kevin Quinlan - Director of Environment & Forestry, Scottish Government (tel: Redacted)

From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Sent: 14 February 2023 11:41
To: Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>
Subject: Letter from Redacted, Circularity Scotland to Retailers

Please find attached an example of the letter that was sent to retailers following the call with Ms Lorna Slater on 31 January.

Kind regards

Redacted

Redacted

[Redacted]

T: Redacted

Website: <https://circularityscotland.com/>

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From: Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>
Sent: 14 February 2023
To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted@Circularityscotland.com; Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>
Cc: Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Deposit Return <depositreturn@sepa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Registration deadline lines

OFFICIAL

Hi Redacted

There's been some confusion ref what constitutes 'DRS registration'

We are still holding the line of register with SEPA for Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme before 1 March (comms team confirmed that a social media post going out today)

Registration with SEPA is different to registering with CSL – who have had an earlier deadline, as they then need to receive and process their member registration information, and then send information over to SEPA by the 28 February – producers are not formally registered for Scotland's DRS until CSL send info over to SEPA and it is formally received and confirmed by our digital registration service.

Have made a slight tweak to the first bullet point (red text)

Will leave Redacted to comment on the 2nd bullet point ref CSL registration (highlighted in yellow).

Also – for future reference, can you copy in the SEPA DRS team mailbox to future urgent queries – depositreturn@sepa.org.uk The mailbox is checked daily by the team and urgent queries picked up, where they might be missed if individuals are on leave.

Thanks

Redacted

OFFICIAL

From: Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 14 February 2023 13:52
To: Redacted@Circularityscotland.com; Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>
Cc: Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted@gov.scot
Subject: Registration deadline lines
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi all,

You'll have seen some of the coverage mentioning a registration deadline of this Friday. We corrected the BBC ahead of this morning's GMS interview but it's still rumbling on, see this tweet from a journalist:
https://twitter.com/andrewlearmonth/status/1625482028371136515?s=20&t=gwGZpsGbVS_-OQBvvVDU1lscow1-K-1kC__qy30TCTM

Are you happy for us to use this line to explain:

- The deadline for producer registration to Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme is 28 February.
- Circularity Scotland has encouraged businesses to contact them as soon as possible to ensure they have everything in place ahead of the deadline and suggested businesses should do this by 17 February. This is guidance only and Circularity Scotland will support any producer that contacts them after this date to register.

Thanks,

Redacted

Redacted
Policy Engagement and Capability Manager
Circular Economy – Deposit Return Scheme
(Pronouns: she/her)

Working from home – contact me on MS Teams
M: Redacted

From: Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>
Sent: 13 February 2023 15:46
To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Deposit Return Scheme - letter from SGF

Redacted- thanks. Redacted has since provided background on this to Minister so I think it's in hand.

Kevin

Kevin Quinlan - Director of Environment & Forestry, Scottish Government (tel: Redacted)

From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Sent: 13 February 2023 15:14
To: Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Subject: Re: Deposit Return Scheme - letter from SGF

Kevin.

our team will have pointed out that a very small return point ie a cafe. could just use a local RVM to return the containers and get their deposits back. Normal practice elsewhere. I anticipate that wholesalers may install RVM with this in mind. I will ask Redacted to coordinate a response and make sure you see it.
Redacted

Redacted

Redacted

On 13 Feb 2023, at 15:54, director.enfor@gov.scot wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Redacted/Redacted – please advise context of this letter and how you plan to respond. I'm assuming the contents as inaccurate to say the least?

Kevin

Kevin Quinlan - Director of Environment & Forestry, Scottish Government (tel: 07825 845 229)

From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Sent: 13 February 2023 14:43

To: Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Subject: Fwd: Deposit Return Scheme

Please see the attached. Can you please make sure the minister is aware of this.

Redacted

Redacted

Begin forwarded message:

From: Redacted <Redacted@sgfscot.co.uk>

Date: 13 February 2023 at 14:49:11 CET

To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Cc: firstminister@gov.scot, Redacted <Redacted@sgfscot.co.uk>, Redacted <Redacted@sgfscot.co.uk>, Redacted <Redacted@sgfscot.co.uk>

Subject: Deposit Return Scheme

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To: Redacted - Chief Executive, CSL

Please find enclosed a letter from Redacted.

Kind regards

Redacted

Head of Policy & Public Affairs

Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Sent: 10 February 2023 15:56

To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Subject: RE: Pre-meet ahead of BRC meeting

I am ok to attend

Redacted

[Redacted]

T: Redacted

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From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Sent: 10 February 2023 13:33

To: Redacted@gov.scot

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Subject: RE: Pre-meet ahead of BRC meeting

Hi Katriona

I am away

It will be Redacted and Redacted from our side.

It is a condition of our attendance that we are not discussing [Redacted] which is a commercial matter between Circularity Scotland and the Retailer.

Thanks

Redacted

Redacted

[Redacted]

T: Redacted

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From: Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 1:24 PM
To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted@sepa.org.uk
Cc: director.enfor@gov.scot; Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted@gov.scot
Subject: Pre-meet ahead of BRC meeting

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All

Please could I check your availability for a meeting with the Minister on Tuesday 14 February at 8:45am, ahead of the meeting with BRC the following morning.

Grateful if you could confirm with Redacted if you are able to attend, who will be able to send you the meeting link.

Thanks

Katriona

Katriona Carmichael | Deputy Director, Circular Economy | Environment & Forestry
| The Scottish Government
3-H (South) Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ | Tel: Redacted | Mob: Redacted
Email: Redacted@gov.scot

I usually work from home. You can contact me by email, phone or MS Teams.

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 10 February 2023 14:21
To: Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Cc: Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Minister and Retailer CEOs on 31 January

Hi Redacted,

For similar reasons, all the attendees for the BRC meeting was arranged through the Scottish Retail Consortium. I understand that it probably isn't CSL's preferred approach if they separately have a letter for the BRC, but that has been our route to contacting members to date.

It might be worth contacting Redacted | SRC Redacted@brc.org.uk or Redacted | BRC Redacted@brc.org.uk to ask if they are content to share details, or share a letter with attendees?

Sorry not to be more help!
Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity

Sent: 10 February 2023 14:16

To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Cc: Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Meeting with Minister and Retailer CEOs on 31 January

Importance: High

Hi Redacted

Yes, I got your message, apologies for the delayed response – I've copied in policy colleagues who will be happy to liaise with you.

Kind regards

Redacted - Private Secretary to the Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity - Lorna Slater MSP

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG |
Email: MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot

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From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Sent: 10 February 2023 13:44

To: Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Subject: Meeting with Minister and Retailer CEOs on 31 January

Importance: High

Hi Redacted

I'm not sure if you have managed to pick up my voicemail regarding the above. Following this meeting Redacted undertook to write to the retailers who attended the meeting and I believe a letter is going to them from Scottish Government on Monday.

I appreciate that you will not be able to share email addresses due to GDPR and so would you be able to forward Redacted's letter to them?

I understand this letter has to go out today ahead of Scottish Government's letter on Monday so would appreciate if you or one of your colleagues could assist urgently.

Thanks

Redacted

Redacted

[Redacted]

T: Redacted

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From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Sent: 10 February 2023 14:18

To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Redacted@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: VAT and DRS

FYI

From: Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>

Sent: 6 February 2023 11:45

To: Redacted <Redacted@zerowastescotland.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted@Circularityscotland.com

Cc: Redacted@Circularityscotland.com; Redacted@Circularityscotland.com; Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: SRC Outstanding Operational Blueprint Issues - 3rd February 2023

OFFICIAL - CONFIDENTIAL

Good morning

Please find attached our update which is in Column I in the attached version of your table. I believe the original list had been incorporated on the SWAG agenda for the last few meetings as the Operational Information Summary item – will this new list replace that?

From reviewing this I do not feel there is anything on the list that is outstanding for SEPA, but we are currently working on additional guidance which SWAG is regularly updated on. We are looking at our timetable for finalising planned guidance and will send another update out shortly as there have been some changes to what we plan

on producing and when due to recent requests for additional guidance which was not initially in our work plan.

If you need anything else on this from us, please let me know.

Thanks

Redacted

OFFICIAL - CONFIDENTIAL

From: Redacted <Redacted@zerowastescotland.org.uk>

Sent: 05 February 2023 18:43

To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted@Circularityscotland.com; Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>

Cc: Redacted@Circularityscotland.com; Redacted@Circularityscotland.com;

Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: SRC Outstanding Operational Blueprint Issues - 3rd February 2023

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Hi All,

Hope you are all well.

I've taken the operational blueprint issues from SRC and created a table to track our responses. Using SWAG documents and other info, I have added where we believe we have resolved the issue with links to guidance if appropriate.

I have also highlighted in yellow where further clarity / links to guidance are needed.

Can I please ask that you review this document and send me any additional information or relevant updates so we can go back to SRC with a collective response?

Moran taing / Many thanks,

Redacted

Redacted | DRS Programme Manager | Zero Waste Scotland

Direct Redacted | **Mobile** Redacted | **Reception** Redacted

Email: Redacted@zerowastescotland.org.uk



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From: Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>

Sent: 03 February 2023 17:00

To: Redacted@Circularityscotland.com; Redacted <Redacted@zerowastescotland.org.uk>; Redacted@sepa.org.uk

Cc: Redacted@Circularityscotland.com; Redacted@Circularityscotland.com; Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted@gov.scot

Subject: FW: SRC Outstanding Operational Blueprint Issues - 3rd February 2023

All,

To see updated 'operational list' from SRC as signalled at the Tuesday meeting. From a quick scan, many already covered. Some also 'closed' but being questioned.

Redacted

From: Redacted | SRC <Redacted@brc.org.uk>

Sent: 03 February 2023 16:56

To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted | BRC <Redacted@brc.org.uk>; Redacted | BRC <Redacted@brc.org.uk>

Subject: SRC Outstanding Operational Blueprint Issues - 3rd February 2023

Dear Redacted,

Over the last three days the SRC has done a initial round of engagement and pulled together what we believe to be the current outstanding issues urgently requiring guidance. We cannot promise this is an exhaustive list as Members are still conducting a review, but we felt in the interest of expediency it would be helpful to send you the interim document rather than wait for something complete.

Redacted and I, and Members, are happy to discuss the points in more detail, and we have shared details of the next meeting on the 15th of February.

Thanks

Redacted



Redacted (He/Him)
Deputy Head
Scottish Retail Consortium

M: Redacted

A: Box 112, 12 Southbridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1DD

www.brc.org.uk/src/

registered office: 100 Avebury Boulevard, Central
Milton Keynes, MK9 1FH

Our core hours are 10am to 4pm, and whilst it may be convenient for me to send emails outside of this time, I do not expect you to answer straight away

From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Sent: 14 February 2023 16:15
To: Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Redacted, Circularity Scotland Letter to Retailers

Hi Redacted

Of course, I will ensure I do so going forward.

From: director.enfor@gov.scot <director.enfor@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 3:39 PM
To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Subject: RE: Redacted, Circularity Scotland Letter to Retailers

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Redacted – can you please cc Katriona, Redacted and me on anything going from CSL to the Minister to keep us all on the same page and reduce email traffic. I know that you sent it to me separately but I then sent it to the Minister as well 😊 Thanks.

Kevin

Kevin Quinlan - Director of Environment & Forestry, Scottish Government (tel: Redacted)

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity
Sent: 14 February 2023 11:54
To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted

<Redacted>

Subject: FW: Redacted, Circularity Scotland Letter to Retailers

Hi Redacted

Sharing the attached letter with you and the team.

Redacted - Private Secretary to the Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity - Lorna Slater MSP

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG |
Mob: Redacted | Email: MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot

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From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Sent: 14 February 2023 11:44

To: Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity
<MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>

Subject: Redacted, Circularity Scotland Letter to Retailers

Please find attached a copy of the letter that Redacted sent to the retailers following the call with Ms Lorna Slater on 31 January.

Kind regards

Redacted

Redacted

[Redacted]

T: Redacted

Website: <https://circularityscotland.com/>

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From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Sent: 13 February 2023 13:10

To: Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted Redacted@Circularityscotland.com

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Subject: Re: Catch up SG/ CSL

Hi

I'm in a DRS roadshow this afternoon so won't be available.

Redacted

Sent from Outlook for Android

From: Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot> on behalf of Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 10:35:22 AM

To: director.enfor@gov.scot <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Subject: Catch up SG/ CSL

When: 13 February 2023 16:00-16:30.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

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Hi All,

Katriona has asked for a catch up this afternoon – hope you can make the time. Any issues, please let me know.

Thanks,

Redacted

Redacted

Personal Assistant to Katriona Carmichael and Divisional Administrator | Circular Economy | Directorate for Environment and Forestry | Scottish Government

Please note, I am currently working from home, Monday – Friday, 08:00 – 16:00

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From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 February 2023 10:45
To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Pls respond by COP 7 Feb: dates for 3rd DRS EOG

Hi Redacted

Could you confirm if either of the below dates (highlighted) would suit Redacted for the third DRS EOG? These were the only dates that suited another of the EOG stakeholders – this session has been slightly more challenging to set up than the previous two!

Many thanks

Redacted

Executive Assistant to the Director | Environment & Forestry Directorate Support Unit | Scottish Government

From: Redacted **On Behalf Of** Director of Environment & Forestry
Sent: 03 February 2023 16:17
To: Redacted@sepa.org.uk' <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@zerowastescotland.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Cc: Redacted@sepa.org.uk' <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@zerowastescotland.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@zerowastescotland.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@zerowastescotland.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: Pls respond by COP 7 Feb: dates for 3rd DRS EOG

Hi all

Thanks for your help in setting up the second DRS EOG meeting.

I'm looking ahead to the **third** meeting now and, after feedback, the suggested dates for the this do not work for all calendars. Grateful if you can let me know which of the following would suit instead:

Tuesday 18 April 11.00 – 12.30
Wednesday 19 April between 11.30 – 13.00

Katriona, Redacted, as before – I have access to your calendars, and have gone with dates/times when you are available; no need to reply to this email unless there are issues.

Many thanks

Redacted

**Executive Assistant to the Director | Environment & Forestry Directorate
Support Unit | Scottish Government**

From: Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**
director.enfor@gov.scot

Sent: 25 January 2023 09:57

To: Redacted@sepa.org.uk; Redacted <Redacted@zerowastescotland.org.uk>;
Redacted@Circularityscotland.com

Cc: Redacted@sepa.org.uk; director.enfor@gov.scot; Redacted@gov.scot;
Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted
<Redacted@zerowastescotland.org.uk>; Redacted

<Redacted@zerowastescotland.org.uk>; Redacted@Circularityscotland.com

Subject: Pls respond by COP 26 Jan: dates for 2nd/3rd DRS EOGs

Good morning all

I'm looking to get dates for the next two DRS EOG meetings in the diary.

Could you therefore let me know if any of these dates would **not** suit for the **second** DRS EOG:

- Thursday 9 March, 12.30 – 13.00
- Friday 10 March, 10.00 – 11.30 **OR** 13.00 – 14.30pm
- Thursday 16 March, 14.00 – 15.30

And if any of these dates would **not** suit for the **third** DRS EOG:

- Monday 17 April, 15.30 – 17.00
- Thursday 20 April, 12.30 – 14.00
- Monday 24 April, 13.30 – 15.00

If none of these timings would suit, please could you offer some alternatives.

Katriona, Redacted, as I have access to your diaries I have gone with dates/times when you are available; no need to reply to this email unless there are issues.

Many thanks

Redacted

**Executive Assistant to the Director | Environment & Forestry Directorate
Support Unit | Scottish Government**

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Sent: 10 February 2023 15:35

To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted
<Redacted@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Subject: RE: VAT

Hi Redacted

Given the time, we are going to hold off on publishing anything until Monday.

Redacted is working on a holding line just in case we get approached over the weekend.

Best,

Redacted

Redacted | Communications: News (Net Zero and Energy)

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: Redacted@gov.scot

m: Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Sent: 10 February 2023 15:25

To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>

Subject: VAT

Both

We are planning to send out an email to stakeholders today to advise of the updates on VAT.

The plan would be that we link to a page on the SG website.

Can you advise when this is likely to be live?

Thanks.

Redacted

[Redacted]

Website: <https://circularityscotland.com/>

Follow us:



From: Redacted@gov.scot
Sent: 10 February 2023 13:55
To: Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted@gov.scot
Cc: Redacted@citypress.co.uk
Subject: Updated lines

Hello,

Just sharing for info our latest lines – have used today in response to a Daily Mail query and a trade press ask.

Best,

Redacted

Circular Economy Minister Lorna Slater said:

“We must take bold and ambitious action to tackle the climate emergency. Scotland’s deposit return scheme will be a major part of our efforts to reduce littering, cut emissions, and build a more circular economy when it goes live on 16 August this year. Similar schemes are common in other European countries and have been shown to be very effective.

“We understand that this is a big change, especially for smaller businesses, and have already announced changes that directly address issues raised by industry. We will continue to listen to the concerns of small producers and will consider if there is any further action we can take to support them ahead of the scheme going live.

“Circularity Scotland is actively engaging with businesses across Scotland to help them prepare for the introduction of the scheme and we would encourage all producers with queries about how the scheme will work to contact them.

“The formal process for excluding the deposit return scheme regulations from the Internal Market Act is well underway. This is the same process we went through to protect Scotland’s ban on many single-use plastic products. We expect a decision from the UK Government as soon as possible given that this is what is needed to give industry absolute clarity.”

Background

A formal process has been agreed between the UK Government and devolved governments to allow for certain policies to be excluded from the UK Internal Market Act where relevant regulations differ between UK nations. This was used to exclude Scotland’s ban on certain single-use plastic items to ensure the ban was effective.

SEPA is the regulator for the scheme and is actively working with partners, trade associations, working groups and individual businesses to help them understand what they need to do to comply. They have agreed that, where there are clearly

evidenced operational challenges, they will take a proportionate approach to compliance.

The scheme will mean local authorities will have less waste to handle, as well as reducing litter and associated clean-up costs, which is good for residents and council budgets and we are supporting local authorities to prepare for the introduction of the scheme

Redacted | Communications: News (Net Zero and Energy)

Senior Media Manager
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
e: Redacted@gov.scot
m: Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 10 February 2023 10:00
To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted@citypress.co.uk
Subject: RE: Holiday Cover

Thanks Redacted – noted.

Hope you have a good time off

Cheers,

Redacted

Redacted | Communications: News (Net Zero and Energy)

Senior Media Manager
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
e: Redacted@gov.scot
m: Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Sent: 10 February 2023 09:54
To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted@citypress.co.uk
Subject: Holiday Cover

Hi both

I'm on holiday next week, returning on Tuesday 21 Feb.

In my absence, please direct any media queries to Redacted who will pick up our end.

Thanks.

Redacted

Redacted

[Redacted]

Redacted

Website: <https://circularityscotland.com/>

Follow us:



From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Sent: 09 February 2023 18:23

To: Redacted@citypress.co.uk; Redacted@Circularityscotland.com

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted Redacted@gov.scot

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - DRS FRAUD - Express

Thanks Redacted - we incorporated this into our response, much appreciated

Redacted

Sent with BlackBerry Work (www.blackberry.com)

From: Redacted <Redacted@citypress.co.uk>

Sent: 9 Feb 2023 17:19

To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted@Circularityscotland.com

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - DRS FRAUD - Express

Hi Redacted,

Having consulted internally, we've drafted the following, which I hope is helpful.

Thanks,

Redacted

The figure quoted refers to a 25-year time period when the Deposit Return is in operation and equates to less than 1% of the value of the overall programme, whereas the Scottish Government's impact assessment

determined that the scheme will deliver £615m in benefits for Local Authorities and society. While fraud is an inherent risk in any commercial project, Circularity Scotland is working closely with specialists, including SEPA, other international DRS operators and Police Scotland in the design of its fraud mitigation processes to ensure they are best in class.

Redacted
Director
Citypress

T: Redacted
M: Redacted

From: Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 February 2023 13:41
To: Redacted@Circularityscotland.com; Redacted <Redacted@citypress.co.uk>
Cc: Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted@gov.scot
Subject: MEDIA QUERY - DRS FRAUD - Express
Importance: High

Hi Redacted, Redacted,

We've had a query from the Express on fraud – see below.

The journalist supplied the attached figures, which are from our Final Business Regulatory Impact Assessment in 2021.

I expect our line will point out that fraud is expected to be very low in % terms and highlight actions to prevent fraud.

Do you have any lines on fraud? Or any figures that might offer a more up to date view?

Best,

Redacted

QUERY

Here are the comments and a picture for your attention.

Scottish Conservative MSP Maurice Golden said: “It’s astonishing that the SNP-Green Government’s own modelling for its Deposit Return Scheme assumes that it will produce fraud on this colossal scale.

“Had it been competently planned, we could have had a system that would have achieved its worthwhile objectives and made a real contribution to the circular economy.

“Instead, the SNP/Greens are going to saddle us with a shoddy, incredibly expensive and badly designed scheme that will impose unnecessary costs on businesses and consumers, and lead to this sort of unwanted outcome.”

Redacted owns a Welsh Wine company. He said: "The Scottish Government want to start a system (DRS) which on their own figures will create £108 MILLION of fraudulent activity in Scotland. So they have a provision to enable criminals make money.

"Lorna Slater even your own colleagues and Senior members of the SNP are now quoted as saying this is the worst legislation of any government in the 43 years of their political career."

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 February 2023 17:39
To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: BBC story - tomorrow am

Hi Redacted

We received a few follow ups on the GMS story.

Please find below a line we have issued reactively in the last half hour.

Redacted

Circular Economy Minister Lorna Slater said:

"Bold action in the face of the climate emergency cannot wait. Scotland's deposit return scheme will recycle billions of bottles and cans, cut emissions, tackle littering and address public concerns in Scotland about the impact of plastic and other waste.

“The formal process for excluding the deposit return scheme regulations from the Internal Market Act is well underway. This is the same process we went through to protect Scotland's ban on many single-use plastic products. I expect a decision from the UK Government as soon as possible given that this is what is needed to give industry absolute clarity.”

Background

- A formal process has been agreed between the UK Government and devolved governments to allow for certain policies to be excluded from the UK Internal Market Act where relevant regulations differ between UK nations. This

was used to exclude Scotland's ban on certain single-use plastic items to ensure the ban was effective.

Redacted | Communications: News (Net Zero and Energy)

Senior Media Manager
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
e: Redacted@gov.scot
m: Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Sent: 08 February 2023 07:35
To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: BBC story - tomorrow am

Thanks. We caught it.

From: Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 7:30:43 AM
To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: BBC story - tomorrow am

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Morning Redacted

For awareness, the story is running on Good Morning Scotland
Redacted

Redacted
Senior Media Manager
Communications Education & Skills
Desk: Redacted; Redacted
Scottish Government | **news.gov.scot**

From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Sent: 08 February 2023 07:30
To: Carmichael K (Katriona) <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: BBC story - tomorrow am

Thanks. Keep us updated. Mobile Redacted if required..

From: Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 11:07:58 PM
To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: BBC story - tomorrow am

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Redacted

Just a heads up that we're dealing with a BBC [Redacted]

We're likely to go with general line in response about the fact that we are continuing to work with UK administrations to support alignment.

Redacted – if able, could let Redacted know if any change to that general line?

Katriona

Katriona Carmichael | Deputy Director, Circular Economy | Environment & Forestry
| The Scottish Government
3-H (South) Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ | Tel: Redacted | Mob: Redacted
Email: Redacted@gov.scot

I usually work from home. You can contact me by email, phone or MS Teams.

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From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 February 2023 13:11
To: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>; Redacted <Redacted@citypress.co.uk>
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: Media query - CSL finances - Herald

Hello,

Sorry – not managed to get that Teams chat working yet so sticking to email for now.

Query from the Herald on finances below – understand you're approached too.

Imagine all we will do is confirm we're committed to the start date. We wouldn't comment on a company's financial arrangements.

Redacted

Redacted | Communications: News (Net Zero and Energy)

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: Redacted@gov.scot

m: Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Sent: 03 February 2023 16:19

To: Redacted <Redacted@citypress.co.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>;

Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted

<Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted@Circularityscotland.com

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - UK Hospitality call for DRS enforcement to be delayed - Express

Thanks Redacted – will work that in

Redacted

Redacted | Communications: News (Net Zero and Energy)

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: Redacted@gov.scot

m: Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@citypress.co.uk>

Sent: 03 February 2023 15:57

To: Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>;

Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted

<Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted@Circularityscotland.com

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - UK Hospitality call for DRS enforcement to be delayed - Express

Thanks Redacted,

Strange that the journalist wouldn't share SIBA's comments! This is the release they have issued: <https://www.siba.co.uk/2023/02/03/grace-period-for-small-producers-needed-to-prevent-empty-shelves-from-august-under-deposit-return-scheme/>

Having looked at the release, I wonder whether it would be worth adding something along the lines of: "Circularity Scotland is actively engaging with businesses across Scotland to help them prepare for the introduction of the scheme and we would encourage all producers with queries about how DRS will work to contact them."

Thanks,

Redacted

Redacted
Director
Citypress

T: Redacted
M: Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>
Sent: 03 February 2023 15:43
To: Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>
Cc: Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted@gov.scot;
Redacted@Circularityscotland.com; Redacted <Redacted@citypress.co.uk>
Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - UK Hospitality call for DRS enforcement to be delayed - Express

OFFICIAL

Hi Redacted,

Thank you for sharing – nothing to add.

Kind regards,

Redacted

Redacted
Communications Officer
Media and Public Affairs
Scottish Environment Protection Agency

M: Redacted
E: Redacted@sepa.org.uk

SEPA News Desk
Redacted

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the information in it by any other is not authorised. If you are not the intended recipient please notify us immediately by return email to postmaster@sepa.org.uk.

Registered office: SEPA, Angus Smith Building, 6 Parklands Avenue, Eurocentral, Holytown, North Lanarkshire, ML1 4WQ

Dh'fhaodadh gum bi am fiosrachadh sa phost-d seo agus ceanglachan sam bith a tha na chois dìomhair, agus cha bu chòir am fiosrachadh a bhith air a chleachdadh le neach sam bith ach an luchd-faighinn a bha còir am fiosrachadh fhaighinn. Chan fhaod neach sam bith eile cothrom fhaighinn air an fhiosrachadh a tha sa phost-d no a tha an cois a' phuist-d, chan fhaod iad lethbhreac a dhèanamh dheth no a chleachdadh arithist. Mura h-ann dhuibhse a tha am post-d seo, feuch gun inns sibh dhuinn sa bhad le bhith cur post-d gu postmaster@sepa.org.uk.

Oifis chlàraichte: Togalach Aonghais Mhic a' Ghobhainn, 6 Craobhraid Parklands, Eurocentral, Baile a' Chuilinn, Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath, ML1 4WQ

OFFICIAL

From: Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>

Sent: 03 February 2023 15:06

To: Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>

Cc: Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted@Circularityscotland.com; Redacted@citypress.co.uk; Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - UK Hospitality call for DRS enforcement to be delayed - Express

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi all,

Another query, this time the Sunday Times.

They're writing a story on the Society of Independent Brewers Association (SIBA) calling for SG to extend the deadline for small brewers to comply with DRS by 18 months.

The journalist wants to know if we will agree to SIBA's demand. We have asked the journalist to share SIBA's full comments so we can respond more precisely, but they have refused.

Draft response below – any issues, please flag. As you'll see, largely similar lines to the UK Hospitality response.

Best,

Redacted

“We must take bold and ambitious action to tackle the climate emergency. Scotland’s deposit return scheme will be a major part of our efforts to reduce littering, cut emissions, and build a more circular economy when it goes live on 16 August this year. Similar schemes are common in other European countries and have been shown to be very effective.

“We understand that this is a big change, especially for smaller businesses, and have committed to a pragmatic approach to implementation. Businesses should contact Circularity Scotland now for guidance on how to prepare.

“We want to see as many businesses as possible be ready and compliant for the scheme going live on 16 August. However, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has agreed that, where there are clearly evidenced operational challenges, they will take a proportionate approach to compliance. They have committed to providing advice and guidance as the preferred route to achieving compliance for businesses who are striving to meet their obligations.”

Background

SEPA is the regulator for the scheme and is actively working with partners, trade associations, working groups and individual businesses to help them understand what they need to do to comply. Once the scheme goes live, SEPA will continue their approach of advice and support, helping businesses do the right thing and comply with their new obligations and ensure the introduction of Scotland’s Deposit Return Scheme is a success for businesses, consumers and the environment.

In December, in response to industry concerns, the Circular Economy Minister wrote to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, setting out actions that will make the scheme more efficient and reduce costs:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/deposit-return-scheme-update-letter-to-scottish-parliament-committee/>

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Sent: 03 February 2023 14:16

To: Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted@CircularityScotland.com; Redacted@citypress.co.uk; Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - UK Hospitality call for DRS enforcement to be delayed - Express

Thanks Redacted – updated lines below. Have edited a bit for length.

Redacted

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Scotland’s deposit return scheme will be a major part of our efforts to reduce littering, cut emissions, and build a more circular economy. We understand that this

is a big change, especially for smaller businesses, and have committed to a pragmatic approach to implementation. We would encourage businesses to contact Circularity Scotland now for guidance on how to prepare.

"We want to see as many businesses as possible be ready and compliant for the scheme going live on 16 August. However, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has agreed that, where there are clearly evidenced operational challenges, they will take a proportionate approach to compliance. They have committed to providing advice and guidance as the preferred route to achieving compliance for businesses who are striving to meet their obligations."

Background

SEPA is the regulator for the scheme and is actively working with partners, trade associations, working groups and individual businesses to help them understand what they need to do to comply. Once the scheme goes live, SEPA will continue their approach of advice and support, helping businesses do the right thing and comply with their new obligations and ensure the introduction of Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme is a success for businesses, consumers and the environment.

Regulatory information and guidance on DRS is available on the SEPA website [Deposit Return Scheme | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#), including an extensive range of FAQs to help businesses with specific questions [FAQs | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#)

In December, in response to industry concerns, the Circular Economy Minister wrote to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, setting out actions that will make the scheme more efficient and reduce costs:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/deposit-return-scheme-update-letter-to-scottish-parliament-committee/>

redacted | Communications: News (Net Zero and Energy)

Senior Media Manager

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: Redacted@gov.scot

m: Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>

Sent: 03 February 2023 13:29

To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>

Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted@Circularityscotland.com;

Redacted@citypress.co.uk; Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: MEDIA QUERY - UK Hospitality call for DRS enforcement to be delayed - Express

OFFICIAL

Hi Redacted

Recommended changes from us (highlighted in red below). I won't be in the office this afternoon but have spoken to my colleague [Redacted], on the media desk, and she will be able to help if anything further is needed. Will also keep you posted if we get any separate media enquiries.

Many thanks
Redacted

Redacted
Senior Communications Officer, Deposit Return Scheme
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Mobile: Redacted
Email: Redacted@sepa.org.uk

Please note I do not work on a Friday afternoon.

OFFICIAL

From: Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 03 February 2023 12:13
To: Redacted <Redacted@sepa.org.uk>
Cc: REdacted@gov.scot; Redacted@gov.scot; Redacted@gov.scot;
Redacted@Circularityscotland.com; Redacted@citypress.co.uk
Subject: MEDIA QUERY - UK Hospitality call for DRS enforcement to be delayed - Express

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Redacted,

Copying colleagues and CSL comms.

As discussed, UK Hospitality has issued a release – copied below – calling for a commitment from SG that we won't enforce the regulations from day one. Express looking for comment.

Regulatory enforcement is for SEPA but given it's a demand on SG, we feel it would be helpful for us to respond and give assurance as far as possible.

I understand – please correct me if I have this wrong – the enforcement approach will be quite sympathetic on day one.

Draft below for views. Working on it in parallel with policy colleagues on our side.

Best,

Redacted

DRAFT REPLY

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“Scotland’s deposit return scheme will be a major part of our efforts to reduce littering, cut emissions, and build a more circular economy when it goes live on 16 August this year.

“We understand that this is a big change, especially for smaller businesses. The Scottish Government has committed to a pragmatic approach to implementation and, working with the scheme administrator, Circularity Scotland, has already made changes to make the scheme as efficient as possible and reduce costs. We would encourage all businesses to contact Circularity Scotland now for guidance on how to prepare.

“We want to see as many businesses as possible be ready and compliant for 16 August. However, the independent regulator, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has agreed that, where there are clearly evidenced operational challenges, they will take a proportionate approach to compliance and remain committed to providing advice and guidance as the preferred route to achieving compliance for businesses who are striving to meet their obligations.”

Background

SEPA is the regulator for the scheme and is actively working with partners, trade associations, working groups and individual businesses to help them understand what they need to do to comply. Once the scheme goes live, SEPA will continue their approach of advice and support, helping businesses do the right thing and comply with their new obligations and ensure the introduction of Scotland’s Deposit Return Scheme is a success for businesses, consumers and the environment.

Regulatory information and guidance on DRS is available on the SEPA website [Deposit Return Scheme | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#), including an extensive range of FAQ’s to help businesses with specific questions [FAQs | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#)

In December, in response to industry concerns, the Circular Economy Minister wrote to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, setting out actions that will make the scheme more efficient and reduce costs:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/deposit-return-scheme-update-letter-to-scottish-parliament-committee/>

UK HOSPITALITY RELEASE

In a letter to the Circular Economy Minister Lorna Slater MSP, UKHospitality Scotland highlighted that, despite the best efforts of businesses, they are still unable to adequately prepare for the planned introduction of the DRS scheme on 16 August.

There remain unanswered questions on monitoring returns, accounting, deposit refunds, exemptions, and VAT. A commitment from the Scottish Government that it will not enforce the regulation immediately, recognising that businesses are doing all they can to prepare with limited information, would provide significant reassurance.

UKHospitality Scotland Executive Director Leon Thompson said: “There is deep concern among Scottish hospitality businesses that the sheer lack of clarity on key issues, like VAT and monitoring, will mean they are simply unable to be ready for the launch of DRS in August.

“These are businesses that are committed to a successful scheme and, in some cases, are international companies with a great deal of experience with DRS in other countries. The fact they still have these concerns, so close to the start date, demonstrates the poor state of preparedness of the scheme.

“Venues are desperate for more information but with that not forthcoming, the Scottish Government and SEPA should extend an olive branch to business and make a public commitment to at least delay enforcement of the regulations at the go live date of 16 August for an extended period, while businesses adapt. Without it, there are many nervous businesses that fear they could face repercussions through no fault of their own.

“Making such a commitment would show the Scottish Government understands the concerns of business and wants to work with them, not against them.”

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 02 February 2023 13:02
To: Redacted@citypress.co.uk; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Subject: Daily Record query

Hello,

We've received the below from the Record.

I've told them they should contact you, especially since the first quote is about the producer agreement. However, his contact details below if you want to pick up directly.

We will issue fairly standard lines.

Best,

Redacted

Redacted | Communications: News (Net Zero and Energy) Senior Media Manager
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
e: Redacted@gov.scot
m: Redacted

From: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Sent: 01 February 2023 15:31
To: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>; Redacted@citypress.co.uk
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: The Nine

Hi Redacted

Unfortunately Redacted is unable to do The Nine tonight but we would be happy to offer an interview at a later stage.

Redacted

From: Redacted@gov.scot <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 February 2023 14:36
To: Redacted@citypress.co.uk; Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Cc: Redacted@gov.scot
Subject: The Nine

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Hello,

As mentioned to Redacted, we've received a bid from the Nine on DRS. Details below.

I don't think we will accept – expect most of the questions will be around operational delivery / registration.

If we decline, would CSL be interested in putting Redacted forward?

Best,

Redacted

BID DETAILS

As mentioned, we're looking at the Deposit Return Scheme on tonight's Nine, with it being a month to go until drinks retailers need to register with Circularity Scotland.

Would the Minister responsible, Lorna Slater, be available for interview on this on tonight's Nine? Interview would be for 5 minutes or so.

It could be done live somewhere between 2100-2130 (could give a more precise time later), or we can pre-record any time within these times: 6-7pm and 7.30-8.15pm

The interview could be done from our studios in Edinburgh or Glasgow, or if that's not possible, via skype or zoom.

Presenters tonight are Laura Maciver and Gary Robertson, one of them would do the interview.

From: Redacted <Redacted@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 February 2023 16:10
To: Redacted@citypress.co.uk
Cc: Redacted <Redacted@Circularityscotland.com>
Subject: TELEGRAPH QUERY

Hi Redacted

On the Telegraph Qs, did you get everything you needed?

We can cover number 1 but that's the most straightforward one so imagine you already have it.

Redacted

1) For the business that made that beer first we will need to register with SEPA and Circularity Scotland, CS, the company the Scottish government will be using to make their scheme work. First comes a flat fee with participation in the scheme of £360.

Whether you produce billions of litres a year like Tennents, or produce 35500 litres like I did last year, you pay the same. This is one of many anti competitive problems. Big businesses absorbs non consequential costs, tiny competitors will be disproportionately affected.

Producers will pay an annual registration fee to SEPA, either directly or via a scheme administrator.

This fee will be applied according to the size of the businesses

- There will be no registration fee for producers with an annual turnover of £85,000 or lower or producers that only fill and seal single-use drink containers at point of sale (e.g. [Redacted]).
- For all other producers, the registration fee will be £365.

More information is available on the SEPA website -
<https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/waste/deposit-return-scheme/producers/producer-registration/>

2) Each producer pays a 20p deposit on every can prior to the customer also paying that deposit. Say we make 10000 cans of beer, we will have to pay £2000. We could get the money back when the can is marked as recycled by CS.

But this will take money out of the business for months causing major cashflow

problems to small producers who work on a knife edge that large businesses do not. Small businesses here are acting as part of a guarantor, a bank to finance the scheme and it will crush them.

For Circularity Scotland

3) A producer fee per container is also added to this cost. This is probably going to be variable around the type of container to cover handling and recycling costs, so we'll pay for that too. An extra actual cost to the finances of each business.

Please can you stipulate what this fee is.

For Circularity Scotland

4) Fines. If your product does not reach a recycled amount, I believe 80%, a fine is due. I've heard CS are the ones picking this up. Its vague. Another risk that if fines are passed on big business will be able to afford this, while small businesses will be eaten up.

Please can you confirm what level of fines are planned and for what the recycling target is.

We could provide info on the overall target in the regulations, but don't think that's what they're getting at here? Might be one for SEPA or CSL?

Redacted | Communications: News (Net Zero and Energy)

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