

Meeting to discuss recommendations on scope and launch of Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme

13 April 2023

15:30 – 16:30

By MS Teams

First Minister (FM)

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition (MM)

Minister Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity (LS)

Permanent Secretary – John Paul Marks (JPM)

DG Net Zero – Roy Brannen (RB)

Direct Environment & Forestry – Kevin Quinlan (KQ)

Michelle Quinn (MQ)

Callum McCaig

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Opening remarks

1. The First Minister (FM) thanked officials for advice and noted the issues and risks with all options. Noted there will be noise whatever the approach, and no option will appease those opposed to the scheme outright. Starting point therefore how to take DRS forward with best chance of success. Will be issues whenever the scheme launches, but assurance suggests issues will be very substantial if a 16 August launch. Scheme remains popular with public.
2. MM and LS had discussed recommendations earlier in the day and were in agreement. [Redacted]
3. LS framed the discussion
 - emphasised DRS the right thing to do, a tried and tested policy, and a producer responsibility scheme seeking to remove costs from taxpayer;
 - Largest producers have demonstrated they're ready;
 - [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
 - Any delay is not without risk, and won't be universally welcomed. [Redacted]. Cut-over (the transition for old stock to registered items where 20p deposit can be charged and reclaimed) will be challenging at any time. Risk that consumers will experience uncertainty.
 - Weighing all of these factors, Ms Slater recommended the options set out in the submission to de-risk/de-sope and to reschedule launch to 1 March 2024.

4. FM agreed with Ms Slater's recommendation. Thereafter he invited officials to summarise the advice in the submission and proceeded to test the various issues.

[Redacted]