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(Redacted)  
Scottish National Investment Bank

**By email:** (Redacted) [@thebank.scot](mailto:)

20 April 2022

Dear (Redacted)

## Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme

I understand that you have been speaking to Circularity Scotland Ltd (CSL) regarding a loan to support them as they deliver Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). I am conscious that there has been some recent media attention regarding our DRS and wanted to write to you to set out the Scottish Government's position.

You may be aware of recent reports in the trade press claiming that the Scottish Grocers' Federation (SGF) is seeking a judicial review into the Regulations that were passed by the Scottish Parliament on 23 February 2022 amending the implementation date for DRS and making a small number of other changes. Although the SGF has publicly denied that it is seeking a judicial review at this point and confirmed that it remains committed to working to deliver DRS by the implementation date, it has announced in a press statement that it has written to us raising concerns regarding DRS and requesting answers to its questions.

As you will appreciate, I am not able to comment on any correspondence of this sort. However, I wish to reiterate the Scottish Government's unwavering commitment to delivering DRS by 16 August 2023, and our strong support for CSL as scheme administrator. As well as our own commitment, I would note that Parliament has now voted on two occasions to put it in place and that it is a popular scheme with the public.

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DRS will be a fundamental change in how the Scottish public recycles and, despite its significant environmental and economic benefits, it is perhaps unsurprising that there should be some resistance to change on this scale. Once CSL secures its loan funding and signs contracts with its partners, the incentives on industry change because they need the scheme to go live to provide a source of income that will recover these sunk costs. Announcement of the necessary loan funding to CSL would also be a major vote of confidence in them and the scheme.

I hope this letter provides you with reassurance on the Scottish Government's continuing commitment to DRS as you consider your decision on funding for CSL. Please let me know if there is any further information that may assist you in making that decision.

Kind regards



**LORNA SLATER**

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