

MEETING WITH MAURICE GOLDEN MSP AND BRIAN WHITTLE MSP

<i>Date and Time of Engagement</i>	08 February 2023 11:00-11:30
<i>Where</i>	T3.21 Parliament
<i>Who will Chair the meeting</i>	Ms Slater
<i>Key Message</i>	
<i>Who</i>	Maurice Golden MSP and Brian Whittle MSP
<i>Why</i>	To discuss their views on the proposals for the Circular Economy Bill
<i>Official Support Required</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Media Handling</i>	n/a
<i>Dress code</i>	n/a
<i>Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if at a non SG Building)</i>	n/a
<i>Specific entrance car/parking arrangements/secure bicycle rack</i>	n/a
<i>Briefing contents</i>	Annex A – Agenda Annex B – Summary Page Annex C – Meeting Attendees Annex D – Consultation and responses

Numbered Agenda (with suggested timings)

Speaking Points

Key Messages/Conversational Points

- Consulted last summer on proposals for legislation and published analysis shows proposals broadly supported.
- Keen to understand which parts of the proposals consulted upon are likely to be supported in Parliament and which are likely to be contentious
- Keen to reach consensus where possible
- Aware that Mr Golden and Mr Whittle have a keen interest in the Deposit Return Scheme, but DRS is not part of the Bill.

Sensitivities/Issues to Avoid

[REDACTED]

Summary Page

The purpose of the meeting is to establish which of the Bill's provisions will be supported by the Scottish Conservatives, and which will be contentious.

Key Points/Top Lines

- We will bring forward a Circular Economy Bill, enabling us to advance a zero waste and circular economy
- We consulted over the summer on our proposals for the Bill and the analysis of responses has now been published.
- We propose to take powers in the Bill where we do not already have powers.
- Our recent Waste Route Map consultation sets out how we intend to deliver our system-wide, comprehensive vision for Scotland's circular economy, using existing powers.
- Interested to hear which of the proposals set out in the consultation are of greatest interest.

Attendees

Maurice Golden MSP

Mr Golden has asked numerous PQs, and the issues on which he has asked PQS in this Parliamentary year include DRS, the Circularity Gap Report and the Material Flows Account, whether the Circular Economy bill will improve consistency in kerbside recycling, battery recycling, the Recycling Improvement Fund, the disposal of counterfeit and illegal goods seized, vapes, the Circular Textiles Fund, food waste data, the disposal of non-household biodegradable waste and the banning of plastic tree guards.

Brian Whittle MSP

The only PQs on the Circular Economy or Waste Management asked by Mr Whittle have been on DRS.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY BILL CONSULTATION AND RESPONSES

PROVISION	DESCRIPTION	SUMMARY OF RESPONSES
CE Strategy duty	<p>Duty on Scottish Government to publish or refresh a circular economy strategy at a given timescale (i.e. every five years), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an indicator suite and/or targets to reduce consumption of materials • Development of resource reductions plans at the sector/material level to measure and then reduce material use in production of goods 	<p>There was strong support for a duty on Ministers to publish a Circular Economy Strategy (87%).</p> <p>Issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a sense that the strategy must address the full circular economy including circular design provisions. • The need for robust monitoring and evaluation, collaboration across government departments, authorities and stakeholders. • Some also believe that there should be a requirement to report on progress via the development of performance indicators and metrics • It must also be ambitious enough to tackle resource use and complex materials

<p>SG targets on consumption reduction, reuse and recycling</p>	<p>Powers to introduce statutory targets on Scottish Ministers to tackle consumption reduction as well as other aspects of the circular economy, including reuse.</p>	<p>There was strong support for a power to set targets (86%). There was general acknowledgement that current targets have been ineffective and focused too narrowly on recycling and that evidence based targets would be beneficial.</p> <p>Issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets must have equal status and importance to domestic carbon reduction targets, with carbon-based consumption targets set in primary legislation. • Statutory targets should be set as soon as possible and no later than 2025. New targets should include material and carbon footprint targets, a reuse target and a more ambitious food waste target of 50% by 2030. • There should be a focus on harmonised requirements across the UK with the Devolved Nations • The Bill must include a duty on the relevant minister to report annually on the new circular economy targets to increase accountability. <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Establishment of CE body</p>	<p>Powers to establish a dedicated circular economy body committed to the circular economy agenda and to working with the Scottish Government to realise national and international ambitions for the circular economy.</p>	<p>A majority of respondents were supportive of the concept of a CE Public Body (60%), however, overall this was the lowest score amongst all closed questions in the consultation. There were some reservations regarding the establishment of a new public body including whether such a body should have legal/regulatory powers or operate in an advisory capacity. In addition, a number</p>

		<p>of respondents felt that there was not enough distinction between the role of this new body and existing ones such as ZWS, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Scottish Enterprise. It was not clear whether a new body would have additional benefits, and some respondents felt that it would have an additional bureaucratic and administrative burden, costing more money for taxpayers.</p> <p>The eNGOs campaign pushed for:</p> <p>“A new Circular Economy Committee to advise the Government on progress and how to meet the targets. It should be adequately resourced and independent of government and from delivery of any of its recommendations”</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
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<p>Banning destruction of unsold goods</p>	<p>Powers to introduce regulations to ban the destruction of unsold goods. This could be a new requirement placed on businesses.</p>	<p>There was overall strong support for this measure. There were some concerns expressed about additional costs this could have on businesses.</p> <p>Issues raised included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A need for a more robust definition of which goods would be targeted under this ban. • Issues surrounding enforcement, such as companies finding loopholes and a lack of use for unsold goods. • The ban will need well-funded enforcement and investigation systems. • It is unclear where or how business will be able to warehouse storage for unsold goods <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Environmental charging for, e.g. single-use items</p>	<p>Powers to introduce charges on single use items that can be replaced with sustainable alternatives (for example, single-use disposable cups)</p>	<p>The consultation responses showed good support for this provision. Concerns raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imposing additional costs on consumers during a cost of living crisis was a concern and could impact the most vulnerable members of society disproportionately. • Care should be taken to ensure charges don't result in a move to alternatives that are worse for the environment. • A consistent approach should be taken across related policy measures e.g. EPR and DRS. • A business focussed charge might work better e.g. prevent the creation of products altogether.

		<p>However, there was overall strong support . The first use of this power is already being planned in order to introduce charges for single-use cups.</p>
<p>Mandatory reporting of waste and surplus</p>	<p>Powers to make reporting of unwanted surplus stock and waste of specified materials mandatory for businesses. This would provide more comprehensive publicly available data and may allow for more effective pressure on businesses to reduce waste.</p>	<p>The majority of respondents agreed, on a conditional basis. The previous CE Bill consultation had shown support for this provision and there was no strong evidence to contradict this.</p> <p>Issues raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that implementation should incorporate robust data collection while ensuring public transparency, thereby highlighting the reasons for goods being deemed as surplus or waste in an accessible and easily understood way • that this could prove to be burdensome for smaller organisations • there was a consensus that a cohesive and aligned approach to data collection would be needed <p>The majority of respondents were in favour of food waste being prioritised for regulation.</p>
<p>Strengthening approach to household waste recycling</p>	<p>Powers to place further requirements on local authorities regarding household collection services in order to increase rates and quality of household recycling including statutory guidance and mandating Scotland's Household Recycling Charter.</p>	<p>The consultation shows general support for this measure, as it did during the previous 2019 bill consultation. Standardisation of waste collections across Scotland was noted as a priority to reduce confusion and encourage greater participation, though many responses argued that greater investment in waste infrastructure is also required. The majority of respondents felt that making the current Scottish Household Recycling Charter a mandatory requirement would be the best way of ensuring consistency and accountability.</p> <p>Concerns or issues raised included:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some concern over enforcement of a mandatory approach • account for the impact of potential changes to waste streams from initiatives like EPR and DRS • specific rural/island communities may benefit from bespoke collection services • the need for greater investment in waste infrastructure, a point featuring in many local authority and COSLA responses to the consultation <p>[REDACTED]</p>
Targets to support recycling performance	Powers to enable Scottish Ministers to set recycling targets (including recycling, preparation for reuse and composting) for local authorities, with the potential to introduce financial incentives or penalties should the targets not be met.	<p>There was strong support for this provision. 84% of the respondents support the power for Scottish Ministers to introduce statutory recycling targets for local authorities, while 75% agree that financial incentives and penalties should be used to support these targets.</p> <p>Key issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a clear preference for incentives over penalties, as it was felt that local authorities are under financial pressure already. • Respondents believed that targets should be tailored to location and circumstance (though some noted that national aggregation may be difficult) and that approaches should be harmonised across the UK. • Some reservations that recycling targets take focus away from waste reduction and reuse. • Some respondents identified a risk of too much financial and administrative burden on local authorities. <p>[REDACTED]</p>

<p>Duty of care for households</p>	<p>Powers to increase obligations on householders to meet recycling requirements including potential fixed penalty notices</p>	<p>This proposal received varied comments, but 80% of the respondents who answered the question agreed local authorities should have more powers in this area.</p> <p>Some were supportive of enforcement actions such as fixed penalties, particularly for repeat offenders. However, others felt that not only would enforcement be difficult and time-consuming, but it may have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups, those without good access to recycling services and those with shared waste facilities.</p> <p>Responses from local authorities indicated some support, and some authorities were more keen than others for the powers to tackle contamination issues (e.g. Glasgow and Edinburgh), subject to finance for proper enforcement. Others, like COSLA, were lukewarm, but did state there may be some merit to considering a strengthened duty of care for households.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Whilst it is already an offence for a householder not to comply with a local authority's instructions in respect of recycling, the powers in Scotland to ensure that residents are properly using their recycling containers or to sanction householders for deliberate failure to comply with duties to properly use their recycling containers and separately collect waste are limited.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Incentivising waste reduction and recycling for households [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Powers to enable Scottish Ministers (and/or local authorities) to incentivise waste reduction and recycling (households)</p>	<p>The consultation showed some support for this type of measure. Examples included:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial incentives to reduce waste and increase recycling rates, such as council tax rebates for good behaviour • implementing a mandatory maximum annual volume of recycling sent to a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) per year • increasing the number of reuse and repair stations at recycling centres, and introducing a statutory obligation to comply with recycling schemes. <p>However, some respondents felt that targeting consumers was not the appropriate response as they have little influence over the volume or recyclability of products and packaging, so laws for producers should be prioritised. Comments also suggested greater education and behaviour change of householders was needed to be put in place before legislation is introduced.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
Business recycling collection zoning	Powers to allow local authorities to create zoning areas for commercial waste collections	<p>This proposal received mixed responses. 66% of respondents who answered this question indicated their support for this measure. Advantages cited included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to improve efficiency and cost effectiveness, reduce the impact on SMEs and benefit recycling rates, carbon accounting and waste destination reporting. <p>Disadvantages included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some felt that zoning may only work in certain localities such as larger cities and may increase costs to local authorities; potential for anti-competitiveness, inefficiency of subcontracting services and increased bureaucracy, and higher costs to producers leading to a lack of innovation and job losses.

		[REDACTED]
Littering from vehicles	Powers to make littering from a vehicle an offence for the registered car owner. This would be a new enabling power that will allow a fixed penalty notice to be issued to the registered keeper of a vehicle when a littering offence has been committed from that vehicle.	<p>The majority of respondents are still supportive of the introduction of powers to introduce a new fixed penalty regime for littering from vehicles.</p> <p>Some operational issues relating to enforcement were raised, however none on the principle of the new penalty for littering from vehicles.</p> <p>Key points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective enforcement of the new penalty will be challenging, due to lack of police resources and the difficulty in providing clear evidence, • some respondents felt efforts should focus on educational campaigns about the impact of roadside littering, targeting households and communities, and favoured a preventative rather punitive course of action, • support was expressed in the new penalty acting as an effective deterrent and instilling greater mindfulness of the consequences of littering in the registered keeper of any given vehicle <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>This provision will also align Scotland with wider powers in this area in other parts of the UK.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

Seizure of vehicles	Powers to seize vehicles linked to waste crime.	<p>The previous Bill consultation showed very strong (93%) support and so the question on this occasion was open to allow any new evidence to be provided. Whilst the responses to this proposal were mixed, the overall sentiment was supportive [REDACTED]</p> <p>In summary, the concerns indicated were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the measure wouldn't be effective enough without being part of an overall set of enforcement measures; • that it wouldn't be a strong enough deterrent to the more organised illegal waste carriers; • would potentially cause harm to more vulnerable people/groups for whom the loss of their vehicle would impact their ability to work or sustain themselves. <p>[REDACTED]</p>
New Civil Penalties for littering/flytipping	Powers to enable Local Authorities and National Parks to issue Civil Penalties	<p>The National Litter and Flytipping Strategy consultation asked respondents if they supported measures to create an effective enforcement model.</p> <p>Subject to consultation responses SG committed that the measures would be pursued either by way of secondary legislation or by means of the Circular Economy Bill.</p> <p>A majority (88%) of consultation respondents supported this action, with strong support from local authorities (89%) and public/statutory bodies (100%) who responded to the consultation.</p>
Increased Fixed Penalty Notice level for offences of flytipping	Raising current fixed penalties issued by Local Authorities, Police and Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park to	The National Litter and Flytipping strategy consultation asked respondents if they supported measures to create an effective enforcement model.

	<p>the maximum (£500) through secondary legislation</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Subject to consultation responses SG committed that the measures would be pursued either by way of secondary legislation or by means of the Circular Economy Bill.</p> <p>A majority (84%) of consultation respondents supported this action, with particular support from local authorities (94%) and public/statutory bodies (100%) who responded to the consultation.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
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Note of meeting between Lorna Slater, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, and Scottish Conservative spokespeople on 8th February 2023.

Present Maurice: Lorna Slater, Maurice Golden MSP and Brian Whittle MSP, [REDACTED]

1. Ms Slater explained that the meeting was called in advance of the introduction of the Circular Economy Bill, to seek their views on the proposals on which SG had consulted.
2. Maurice Golden said they were happy with all the proposals but did not think it was transformative enough. Ms Slater explained that what was in the Bill is what we need the powers to do. The routemap uses existing powers and should solve continuity issues.
3. In the discussion which followed, issues covered included;
 - system design, and a need for circular economy business models.
 - Re-use targets
 - provision for repair and remanufacturing
 - a Circular Economy Centre of Excellence, incorporating the existing Institute of Re-use
 - a Design Academy
 - critical raw materials
 - green skills
 - public procurement, particularly of local food
 - mandatory reporting of waste
 - re-defining the Waste Hierarchy, to reflect different types of incineration
 - ZWS, circular economy public body and enterprise agencies
 - Implementation and how success would be measured
 - Influencing consumer behaviour
 - VAT
4. Ms Slater noted that the main issues discussed could be summarised as
 - Re-use targets
 - Public procurement of food
 - Sector strategies
 - Powers to public body
5. As regards further engagement, as neither Mr Whittle nor Mr Golden is on the Net Zero committee, it was agreed that the next opportunity would be during Stage 1 consideration.

MEETING WITH COLIN SMYTH MSP AND MERCEDES VILLALBA MSP

<i>Date and Time of Engagement</i>	08 February 2023 14:00-14:30
<i>Where</i>	T3.21 Parliament
<i>Who will Chair the meeting</i>	Ms Slater
<i>Key Message</i>	
<i>Who</i>	Colin Smyth MSP and Mercedes Villalba MSP
<i>Why</i>	To discuss their views on the proposals for the Circular Economy Bill
<i>Official Support Required</i>	[REDACTED]
<i>Media Handling</i>	n/a
<i>Dress code</i>	n/a
<i>Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if at a non SG Building)</i>	n/a
<i>Specific entrance car/parking arrangements/secure bicycle rack</i>	n/a
<i>Briefing contents</i>	Annex A – Agenda Annex B – Summary Page Annex C – Meeting Attendees

Numbered Agenda (with suggested timings)

Speaking Points

Key Messages/Conversational Points

- Consulted last summer on proposals for legislation and published analysis shows proposals broadly supported.
- Keen to understand which parts of the proposals consulted upon are likely to be supported in Parliament and which are likely to be contentious
- Keen to reach consensus where possible
- Aware that Ms Villalba has expressed interest in the Deposit Return Scheme, but DRS is not part of the Bill.

Sensitivities/Issues to Avoid

[REDACTED]

Summary Page

The purpose of the meeting is to establish which of the Bill's provisions will be supported by Scottish Labour, and which will be contentious.

Key Points/Top Lines

- We will bring forward a Circular Economy Bill, enabling us to advance a zero waste and circular economy
- We consulted over the summer on our proposals for the Bill and the analysis of responses has now been published.
- We propose to take powers in the Bill where we do not already have powers.
- Our recent Waste Route Map consultation sets out how we intend to deliver our system-wide, comprehensive vision for Scotland's circular economy, using existing powers.
- Interested to hear which of the proposals set out in the consultation are of greatest interest.

Attendees

Colin Smyth MSP

Mr Smyth has not asked any questions on the Circular Economy or waste management in this Parliamentary year..

Ms Villalba MSP

Ms Villalba has asked a number of PQs on DRS.

Note of meeting between Lorna Slater, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, and Scottish Labour spokespeople on 8th February 2023.

Present: Lorna Slater, Colin Smyth MSP and Mercedes Villalba MSP, Harry Huyton, [REDACTED]

1. Ms Slater explained that the meeting was called in advance of the introduction of the Circular Economy Bill, to seek their views on the proposals on which SG had consulted.
2. Colin Smyth said that there was nothing which jumped up but it was the practicalities of the proposals that mattered. They agreed with the proposal for a strategy and that sector strategies made sense.
3. In the discussion which followed, issues covered included:
 - targets on the face of the Bill, including consumption targets.
 - the circular economy public body - how would it work with existing public bodies
 - the destruction of unsold goods
 - if the effect of environmental charging would be to prevent future bans on products
 - if there was a list of things to be charged, beyond single use coffee cups and, possibly
 - mandatory reporting
 - the proposals in respect of local authorities and household waste
 - the context of DVC being that householders are currently penalised – by having to pay extra – for doing the right thing
 - business zoning
 - the enforcement provisions
 - a ban on disposable vapes
 - the proposals in the consultation being targeted at the consumer rather than production of items
4. It was agreed that a further meeting be held after Stage 1.

MEETING WITH MARK RUSKELL MSP

Date and Time of Engagement	09 February 2023 15:00-15:30
Where	T3.21 Parliament
Who will Chair the meeting	Ms Slater
Key Message	
Who	Mark Ruskell MSP
Why	To discuss their views on the proposals for the Circular Economy Bill
Official Support Required	[REDACTED]
Media Handling	n/a
Dress code	n/a
Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if at a non SG Building)	n/a
Specific entrance car/parking arrangements/secure bicycle rack	n/a
Briefing contents	Annex A – Agenda Annex B – Summary Page Annex C – Meeting Attendees

Numbered Agenda (with suggested timings)

Speaking Points

Key Messages/Conversational Points

- Consulted last summer on proposals for legislation and published analysis shows proposals broadly supported.
- Keen to understand which parts of the proposals consulted upon are likely to be supported in Parliament and which are likely to be contentious
- Keen to reach consensus where possible

Sensitivities/Issues to Avoid

[REDACTED]

Summary Page

The purpose of the meeting is to establish which of the Bill's provisions will be supported by the Scottish Greens, and which will be contentious.

Previous Meeting(s)

You met Mr Ruskell to discuss the Bill on 9th November 2022 – note of meeting in Annex C.

Key Points/Top Lines

- We will bring forward a Circular Economy Bill, enabling us to advance a zero waste and circular economy
- We consulted over the summer on our proposals for the Bill and the analysis of responses has now been published.
- We propose to take powers in the Bill where we do not already have powers.
- Our recent Waste Route Map consultation sets out how we intend to deliver our system-wide, comprehensive vision for Scotland's circular economy, using existing powers.
- Interested to hear which of the proposals set out in the consultation are of greatest interest.

Attendees

Mark Ruskell MSP

Mr Ruskell has not asked any questions on the Circular Economy or waste management in this Parliamentary year.

Note of Meeting with Mark Ruskell MSP on 9 November 2022:

- Mr Ruskell welcomed the broad scope of the Bill but noted he had not considered in detail yet.
- Ms Slater outlined that consultation responses had shown broad support for the proposals and that the formal analysis would be published soon.
- Ms Slater outlined the timetable for Bill - SG were committed to bringing the Bill before Parliament this term, before summer recess in 2023, and so there was limited time to include new ideas within it.
- Ms Slater outlined the focus of the eNGO campaign around setting targets on the face of the Bill and a new CE body independent of Government
- Mr Ruskell asked if there was anything more that could be done in relation to local authorities
- **[REDACTED]** set out the provisions within the bill consultation, including those which would aim at improving consistency across LAs and provide new powers.
- Ms Slater noted that the introduction of DRS would give local authorities more bandwidth to do other things.
- Mr Ruskell noted that targets can drive change and there would be a need to be clear about the process to derive them if they were not to be put on the face of the Bill. We would need to provide certainty on that. He noted that the Heat Networks Bill was an example of where engagement around targets had worked successfully in the past.
- Harry Huyton noted that we don't have all the levers we need to tackle consumption and design e.g. tax and product standards and we need to be clear on what is devolved and what is not when explaining the Bill as there are often misconceptions around this.
- Ms Slater noted it would be helpful for Mr Ruskell to engage with stakeholders around the Bill to understand expectations.

Note of meeting between Lorna Slater, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, and Scottish Green spokespeople on 8th February 2023.

Present: Ms Slater, [REDACTED] Mark Ruskell MSP [and two Green party researchers / assistants]

1. Ms Slater explained that the meeting was called in advance of the introduction of the Circular Economy Bill, to seek their views on the proposals on which SG had consulted.
2. Mr Ruskell said that their views were based on engagement with stakeholders as well as the analysis of consultation responses.
3. In the discussion which followed, issues covered included:
 - statutory targets, including targets sector by sector, and listing the sectors on the face of the Bill
 - the remit of ZWS
 - measures to increase re-use and repair
 - standardisation of household recycling was welcomed
 - DVC and duty of care
 - waste infrastructure, the current variation across local authorities was acknowledged
 - powers for charging for single use items
 - mandatory reporting powers
 - fines for recycling
 - five-year cycle for the Circular Economy strategy
 - alignment with EPR, DRS and chemical contamination
 - supply chain issues.
4. To sum up, the key areas of concern were targets, re-use and repair, and consistency.

MEETING WITH LIAM MCARTHUR MSP

Date and Time of Engagement	14 March 2023 15:00-15:30
Where	Ms Teams meeting online using this link Click here to join the meeting
Who will Chair the meeting	Ms Slater
Key Message	
Who	Liam McArthur MSP
Why	To discuss their views on the proposals for the Circular Economy Bill
Official Support Required	[REDACTED]
Media Handling	n/a
Dress code	n/a
Greeting Party and specific meeting point on arrival (if at a non SG Building)	n/a
Specific entrance car/parking arrangements/secure bicycle rack	n/a
Briefing contents	Annex A – Agenda Annex B – Summary of Bill provisions

Agenda

1. Welcome and set out purpose of meeting
2. Seek views on proposals in consultation
3. Sum up views expressed

Speaking Points

Key Messages/Conversational Points

- Consulted last summer on proposals for legislation and published analysis shows proposals broadly supported.
- Keen to understand which parts of the proposals consulted upon are likely to be supported in Parliament and which are likely to be contentious
- Keen to reach consensus where possible

Sensitivities/Issues to Avoid [REDACTED]

Summary Page
[REDACTED]

ANNEX B

Note of meeting between Lorna Slater, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, and LibDem spokesperson on 14th March 2023.

Present: Ms Slater, [REDACTED], Liam McArthur MSP

1. Ms Slater explained that the meeting was called in advance of the introduction of the Circular Economy Bill, to seek their views on the proposals on which SG had consulted.
2. Mr McArthur said that, given the portfolios he covers, he was grateful for Ms Slater's approach in bringing him up to speed.
3. As regards the strategy, he had no firm view on the appropriate time frame to review, but regarded it generally as a sensible provision. On targets, he understood the arguments both for and against putting them on the face of the Bill, and recognised the need for flexibility.
4. In the discussion which followed, issues covered included:
 - Importance of targets being aligned with devolved competence
 - Any restrictions on the type of unsold goods to which the restrictions would apply
 - Single use items
 - Penalties for not disposing of waste appropriately
 - Concern about chaotic households descending into a spiral of FPNs and criminal convictions
 - Recognising that the provisions were about taking powers, not the detail of how they would be used
 - Concern that penalising councils for failure to achieve what is required of them can be counter-productive
 - Enforceability of littering provisions
 - The usefulness of mandatory reporting of waste for businesses who could profitably use that waste
5. To sum up, the key areas of concern were needs of rural areas, the householder duty of care and duties on local authorities.