

25 August 2020

Dear Cabinet Secretary

I write on behalf of the Expert Panel on Environmental Charging and Other Measures, to express our thanks to you for the opportunity to contribute to the development of policy on reducing our throwaway culture and tackling Scotland's dependence on single-use items.

During our work over the past two years we have collectively recognised the challenge being faced by Governments to reduce the damaging environmental impact of our society. The Scottish Government has demonstrated that it is committed to doing more for the environment and we hope that this ambition continues.

Following the publication of our initial report Recommendations on Single-use Disposable Beverage Cups in July 2019, the Panel has now produced a second document, which is attached. "Ending the Throwaway Culture: Five Principles of Reducing Single-Use" is designed to be utilised by policy makers and by all types of organisations who want guidance to consider how they use single-use items and to reduce dependence on those items. **We strongly recommend that the Scottish Government applies the 5 principles in its own policy development and promotes them as a tool that help others to deliver the ambition for Scotland to become a zero waste society. The Principles should be published and used to support the 'green recovery' that the Scottish Government has indicated it will look to deliver as part of its broader approach to promoting economic recovery following- Covid-19.**

We recognise that 2020 has brought many challenges for governments around the world; however, we would reiterate that it is still a time for positive change and you are well placed to put Scotland at the forefront of efforts to reduce the reliance on single-use items. The focus of those efforts should be on switching from single-use items to reusable alternatives and not solely on eliminating single-use plastics, as some single-use alternatives can be equally damaging to the environment.

The Panel also recommends:

1. The return to Parliament as soon as it is practical to do so, of the Circular Economy Bill, which would have seen legislation for charges relating to

throwaway items introduced and become part of Scotland's legislation as a matter of urgency.

2. That the Scottish Government continues to focus on its commitment to match the EU's commitments on single-use plastics but goes further where possible to tackle all single use items.
3. That the Scottish Government continues to focus on the importance of the circular economy to Scotland's overall social and economic recovery in order to address key challenges and maximise opportunities arising from the current context'

Thank you for the opportunity to shape Scotland's approach to reducing dependence on single use items as part of its response to the global climate emergency'. We have relished this opportunity and would look to you and the Scottish Government to utilise the reports and principles that we have provided to deliver further positive change in Scotland.

Yours sincerely

Dame Sue Bruce

Chair

On behalf of the Expert Panel

Cc: Expert Panel members