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Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH EH99 1SP

11 September 2023

Dear Edward

I wrote to you in June following confirmation of the UK Government's decision to refuse a full IMA exclusion for our Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), alongside confirmation of our decision to re-set the launch date of the scheme to October 2025 at the earliest.

I laid the Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2023 on 30 June to make this change to the date in the Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020 and I am attending committee on 26 September to provide evidence on the draft Regulations.

Officials have carried out impact assessments of this further delay, and I am pleased to be able to share a supplementary assessment to the Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment, and a Strategic Environmental Assessment addendum with Committee members for consideration alongside the draft Regulations.

It should be noted that these assessments focus solely on the impacts associated with the changes to the proposed launch date, and relate to the Scottish scheme as it is currently set out in the DRS Regulations. An assessment of the requirements set out in the UK Government's letter on an IMA exclusion is not yet possible because the design of the scheme proposed by the UK government is ongoing.

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The Scottish Government remains committed to introducing a DRS and we continue to work constructively with other UK nations to develop an interoperable scheme which will provide the environmental and economic benefits that we know DRS can bring. I would be happy to update on this work when I attend the committee on 26 September.

Kind regards

**LORNA SLATER**

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