



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

20 July 2023

Dear Edward,

Thank you for your letter of 30 June inviting me to a meeting of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, and for the opportunity to discuss Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and intergovernmental relations.

The Scotland Office plays a key part in leading, facilitating and supporting engagement with the Scottish Government. People across Scotland rightly expect to see both of their governments working together with a relentless focus on the issues that matter to them, their families, and their communities. That is our priority now, and for the years to come.

However, I note that the Committee is most interested in hearing about how a UK-wide DRS will operate in practice, and how interoperability will be achieved across the UK.

With DEFRA leading the UK Government work on this matter, I think it would be more beneficial to the Committee if the DEFRA Secretary of State was invited instead.

Thank you again for your invitation.

**THE RT HON. ALISTER JACK MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND**