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Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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6 June 2024

Dear Edward

## **CIRCULAR ECONOMY (SCOTLAND) BILL: FOLLOW-UP TO STAGE 2**

Following discussions during the Committee's Stage 2 consideration of the above Bill, I am writing to provide you with an update on Zero Waste Scotland, our research on reusable nappies and the Human Rights Bill.

### **Zero Waste Scotland**

Further to the Committee session on Tuesday 28 May, I agreed to write to members to confirm any budget implications in relation to amendment numbers 174 & 180, whereby public bodies legislation will be made applicable to Zero Waste Scotland. This follows the classification decision made by the Office for National Statistics in April 2023 that the organisation be classified as a public sector organisation, being largely funded and directed by Scottish Ministers.

As previously stated in the Financial Memorandum of the Circular Economy Bill, this change of classification will not represent a material difference to Scottish Government budgets. The statutory duties coming into effect following the planned passage of the Bill shall form part of Zero Waste Scotland's existing corporate resourcing plan.

The organisation already mirrors procedural requirements across a number of the proposed duties on a voluntary basis, in advance of any statutory requirements coming into effect, and these amendments will support a consistent approach with other public bodies. Furthermore, public body status will provide more opportunity to work collaboratively with other bodies to develop shared services and efficiencies, consistent with the Scottish Government's programme of public service reform.

Within Zero Waste Scotland's existing corporate resourcing plans for 2024/25, an allocation of up to £0.25m (out of the Scottish Government's total zero waste budget of £48.9m), is in

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place to support Zero Waste Scotland's costs associated with the status transition work in the current financial year. This might include legal costs, alongside training and specialist support to prepare the organisation to meet the proposed duties. This allocation has not had any impact on the delivery programme agreed between Scottish Government and Zero Waste Scotland for 2024/25.

### **Research on reusable nappies**

I am pleased to let the Committee know that Scottish Government research on barriers to using reusable nappies, mentioned at Committee sessions on 14 and 21 May, has now been published and can be accessed at this link: [Reusable nappies: research - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/reusable-nappies-research) ([www.gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot)).

### **Human Rights Bill**

At the session on 14 May, there was a question about the proposed Human Rights Bill. I draw the Committee's attention to the Scottish Government's latest update on the Bill in its response to [PQ S6W-27480](#).

Yours sincerely,



**Gillian Martin**

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