

FROM THE RECYCLING & WASTE INDUSTRY CEOS

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28 May 2020

The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State
Defra
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Dear Secretary of State,

Delivering a green recovery through a more circular economy

The recycling and waste industry is extremely pleased and grateful for your Department's support during the covid-19 crisis. Your officials' help in co-ordinating responses with colleagues across other Government Departments really helped our industry to maintain services throughout a very challenging time.

Our respective companies have a strong track record for delivery. Together we have invested £5 billion in new recycling and waste treatment infrastructure during the past decade. We employ almost 40,000 people across all parts of the UK and run businesses which generate £5.6 billion in turnover adding £2.4 billion to the UK economy. Since 1990 we have substantially reduced our greenhouse gas emissions, as commended by the Committee on Climate Change, and we will set out our net zero strategy later this year. Last year we recycled over 20 million tonnes of materials, bringing resources back into productive use.

We are very keen to meet you and Ministerial colleagues at the earliest opportunity to discuss how we can help the Government to drive a green recovery, levelling up the regions and maximising the economic and environmental advantages which arise from a more circular economy in the UK. To support this, we have a strong pipeline of investment plans, both in the near term (within the next 6-12 months) and beyond, that will achieve these goals.

Our industry has demonstrated its resilience and ability to deliver services throughout the recent covid-19 crisis. We would be pleased to offer our expertise to support you and your officials in any way we can.

We are copying this letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Yours sincerely

Michael Topham, CEO, Biffa plc

Roger Hewitt, Executive Chairman, Castle Environmental

Dougie Sutherland, CEO, Cory Riverside Energy

Paul Taylor, CEO, FCC Environment UK

Neil Grundon, Deputy Chairman, Grundon

Mike Hill, CEO, Hills Group

James Priestley, Managing Director Municipal, Renewi plc

Michael Tracey, Chairman, SESA

John Scanlon, CEO, Suez recycling and recovery UK

Gavin Graveson, Executive Vice-President UK and Ireland, Veolia

Phil Piddington, Managing Director, Viridor