

PRESS STATEMENT

SESA welcomes scrutiny of deposit return

Edinburgh, 10 September 2019: the Scottish Environmental Services Association (SESA), the voice of Scotland's resource and waste management industry, today welcomed the opportunity to review the Scottish Government's draft regulations for a deposit return scheme (DRS). The draft regulation have been laid in the Scottish Parliament are now available for public comment.

SESA Policy Advisor, Stephen Freeland said,

"Consultation with the waste management industry on DRS has been disappointingly light, with producers and retailers the sole focus of Zero Waste Scotland's engagement on scheme design. We hope that publication of the draft regulations heralds a more inclusive approach to engaging the wider supply chain, including our sector which stands ready to invest in the services and infrastructure needed to make a success of the scheme.

Aspects of the scheme would benefit from more detailed parliamentary scrutiny, such as the decision to include glass bottles. It is perhaps noteworthy that Norway, the inspiration for Scotland's DRS, does not include glass. It is also a source of frustration that the Scottish Government continues to push ahead with DRS in isolation, with greater environmental gains likely to be achieved at lower cost if beverage containers were considered more fully in the context of anticipated reforms to extended producer responsibility.

To build a DRS from scratch for April 2021 remains incredibly ambitious, and this creates significant uncertainty on what infrastructure is needed where, while also impacting on investment decisions for kerbside collections. Discussion with SESA Members on this needs to start now if everything is to be in place on time".

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. The **Scottish Environmental Services Association** (SESA) is the voice of Scotland's waste and resource management sector. We work with our Members to transform waste and resource management across Scotland. This work helps enable our Members to turn Scottish waste into valuable resources, whilst continually protecting the environment.
2. We work with all levels of government, regulators and the public to deliver a more sustainable waste and resource management solution across the UK.

3. SESA's Members manage waste on behalf of the whole of society, recovering more than ever before and have helped Scotland achieve a 45% recycling rate.
4. For further details please visit www.esauk.org

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