

FROM THE SESA CHAIRMAN

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3 June 2021

Mr Michael Matheson MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy & Transport
By e-mail only

Dear Mr Matheson

TOWARDS NET ZERO

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy & Transport. We look forward to working with you in helping deliver Scotland's zero waste and circular economy objectives.

As you may know, the Scottish Environmental Services Association (SESA) is the trade association representing Scotland's resource and waste management industry. Our Members turn waste into valuable resources for the economy while protecting human health and the environment.

You take on the waste and resources portfolio at a very exciting time for our industry, as SESA Members embrace the opportunities presented by the circular economy and plan for the decarbonisation of the sector. The policy framework which has been developed over the last decade has got Scotland moving in the right direction but we look to this current Parliament to build on the momentum so far and provide the industry with the signals needed to invest in the next generation of waste and recycling infrastructure.

I appreciate you have a diverse brief and with many competing priorities but suggest that the following two key matters deserve your urgent attention.

- Planning for implementation of the 2025 landfill ban has, for all intents and purposes, ground to a halt since the onset of the pandemic and we remain concerned that without careful oversight of the process the same circumstances that led to the original 2021 ban deadline being missed could be repeated. Perhaps as a first step the cross-sector task group (formed in 2019 to assist with ban implementation) could be re-convened to help plan for the orderly transition to alternative residual treatment options and help inform policy on the post-ban role for landfill.
- We understand that the implementation date for Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is set for review. SESA Members are in discussion with the DRS scheme

administrator to help plan and deliver key aspects of the scheme and would therefore benefit from clear steer from the Scottish Government on any likely change to implementation timescales. If indeed the Scottish Government was minded to postpone scheme implementation we suggest that this would provide an ideal opportunity to take stock and consider closer alignment of DRS across the rest of the UK. This would clearly help reduce scheme costs, improve efficiency and help deliver clear, consistent messaging to the public.

We would of course be delighted to offer any such briefings as may be helpful and to meet you or your researchers at your earliest convenience.

Again, many congratulations on your new appointment and we wish you a successful tenure.

If any further information would be helpful please feel free to contact Stephen Freeland (s-freeland@esauk.org).

Yours sincerely,



Martin Cracknell
Chairman, Scottish Environmental Services Association