

David J. Rowlands AM
Chair
Petitions Committee

30 April 2018

Dear David,

Tackling plastic pollution

Thank you for your letter of 23 March 2018 in which you outline your consideration of two petitions relating to reducing plastic pollution:

- P-05-750 For single use items: introduce a Deposit Return System for drink containers and make fast food containers and utensils compostable
- P-05-803 Our natural world is being poisoned by single use plastics...it's time to introduce a tax!

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee noted this letter at our meeting on 26 April 2018. We have already identified tackling plastic pollution as an area in which we are interested. Like you, we are also awaiting the publication of the Extended Producer Responsibility research study that has been commissioned by the Welsh Government to inform our thinking.

We are awaiting further detail on the UK Government's commitment in their 25 year environment plan - [A Green Future](#) - to eliminate avoidable plastic waste by end of 2042, and how they intend to achieve this.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his [Spring Statement 2018](#) that he will launch a call for evidence for 'how the tax system can help drive the



technological progress and behavioural change we need' to reduce plastic pollution.

Progress on this issue is moving quickly. Just last week there was the launch of the UK Plastics Pact between local governments, manufacturers, retailers and third sector organisations to 'make single use plastics a thing of the past'.

We plan to carry out further work once the results of these initiatives are better known. I will keep you updated on the progress of our work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mike Hedges AM

Chair of Climate Change, Rural Affairs and Environment Committee

