

Mark Drakeford AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid
Cabinet Secretary for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-803
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00302/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee
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7 July 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 4 June, regarding the petition P-05-803 related to taxing single-use plastics. I last wrote to you in February, and welcome the opportunity to provide you with the latest position. I welcome the continued interest in and support for a tax on disposable plastic in Wales and I recognise the high level of public interest in this matter

Since my last letter to you, we have continued to explore potential taxation options for Wales while working with UK Government on its call for evidence which examined how charges or changes to the tax system could tackle the problems associated with single-use plastic waste. This work has highlighted the opportunity, if this is suitably tailored to Wales' needs, for considering the potential for a UK-wide tax. Our goals for tackling avoidable plastic waste and the environmental problems it creates might be more effectively addressed through a joint taxation measure, so I am keen to explore this opportunity further with the UK Government and other devolved administrations.

I recognise the importance of aligning our approach with wider plans for introducing a deposit return scheme, additionally to the ongoing reform of existing legislation on packaging waste, to place more responsibility for the cost of end-of-life waste management on the producers of packaging.

The UK Government's call for evidence concluded on 18 May. The Welsh Government publicised the call for evidence in Wales to help ensure community and business interests were taken into account in the outcome. We are now working with HMT to assess the responses to the consultation to inform our approach - a significant number of responses were received which is very encouraging.

In parallel, we are assessing the merits of introducing a stand-alone Welsh tax, levy or charge on single-use beverage drinks containers to reduce their use, encourage re-use, and reduce the litter they can create, as recommended in the Eonomia report (published on 8 May). This work will be informed by the findings of the HMT call for evidence.

The Minister of Environment and I have agreed that we should continue to work with the UK Government at this stage and I will be meeting the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury in the near future to discuss progress and the way ahead.

I hope that this information proves helpful and I welcome your contribution to the process.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Drakeford

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