



The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
2 Marsham St
Westminster
SW1P 4DF

12th July 2022

Dear Mr Eustice,

Our organization has worked for many years to reduce the environmental damage caused by glass packaging, which too often ends up discarded after a single use and is either buried in landfill or dropped as litter. This causes untold harm to ecosystems and wildlife as well as having a persistent and widespread impact on our communities.

We are concerned about the exclusion of glass from the upcoming Deposit Return Scheme. As you will be aware, Keep Britain Tidy has been an early advocate of an all-in DRS and we were delighted to see that in the Conservatives' winning 2019 manifesto, a promise was made to the electorate to "introduce a deposit return scheme to incentivise people to recycle plastic and glass."

We were disappointed to see indications in the Government's response to their consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging of UK plans to deviate from Scotland and Wales - which have both opted for a complete DRS.

The inclusion of glass in a DRS is overwhelmingly popular with the public. YouGov polling from May 2022 found that, when asked which materials should be included in a DRS, the most requested by respondents from Great Britain were glass bottles (78%), above plastic bottles (74%) and aluminium cans (70%). To us, this isn't surprising. We deal first-hand with the dangers that glass poses to people, pets and wildlife when littered in the environment, and have years of experience campaigning to protect people from these harms.

In April 2022, we asked the public to share their experiences with glass in the environment and to contact their MPs to let them know that they wanted to get broken glass out of the environment and into the Government's DRS. Since then, nearly 1,000 people have written to their MPs to ask them to act.

We've heard stories from across the UK of people whose family have been injured from littered glass, and the volunteers who struggle with removing broken glass from the environment. A summary of the campaign is attached.

The time for an all-in DRS is now, and we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this issue and to share our expertise as an organisation with over 60 years of experience in this policy area.

Kindest regards,

Allison Ogden-Newton OBE
Chief Executive