



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ89694

paul.davies@senedd.wales

25 June 2024

Dear Paul,

I am writing in response to the question you asked of my predecessor, Minister James, within the Written Assembly Questions on 27 November 2023.

I wanted to apologise for the delay in responding to you, and hope that the below provides a sufficient response.

You had asked two questions related to the Deposit Return Scheme in Wales:

What discussions has the Welsh Government had with the UK Government on how the United Kingdom Internal Market Act will affect the implementation of a deposit return scheme in Wales, and specifically on whether it will have an impact on the inclusion of glass in the scheme? (WQ89694)

What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the impact of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act on the Welsh Government's ability to implement an effective deposit return scheme in Wales? (WQ89694)

In April 2024 I made a joint statement, along with the Ministers responsible for the development of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, on the progress that has been made to develop shared positions which will maximise the interoperability between our respective schemes. This has been developed from the longstanding partnership approach between the four UK nations and through engagement with stakeholders in developing a DRS.

We are continuing to work jointly with the UK, Northern Ireland and Scottish Governments on the development of the Deposit Return Scheme, as we have throughout.

Our position remains that the Senedd's ability to legislate in devolved areas is not impacted by the provisions of the UK Internal Market Act. This is in line with the approach we have taken in our Single Use Plastics legislation, which will be fully implemented in Wales

regardless of the UK Internal Market Act, and regardless of the regulatory position on Single Use Plastics products elsewhere in the UK.

Our policy has been consistent throughout, and the inclusion of glass was fully endorsed by the consultation undertaken jointly with the UK Government. It is also important in supporting the sector to transition to zero-waste and net zero carbon emissions.

I am providing links to both the joint interoperability statement here and my Written Ministerial Statement.

[Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers: joint policy statement - GOV.UK](#)
www.gov.uk

[Written Statement: Update on the Development of a Deposit Return Scheme \(25 April 2024\)](#)
[GOV.WALES](#)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Huw Irranca-Davies', written in a cursive style.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs