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**Date:** 28 July 2023

Good afternoon,

## **Resources & Waste Reforms**

This week, the government set out the next steps in relation to its resources and waste reforms that I would like to share.

### **Extended Producer Responsibility**

In relation to Extended Producer Responsibility, the UK Government and devolved administrations have jointly decided to defer [Extended Producer Responsibility](#) for packaging payments from October 2024 to October 2025.

Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging will see producers pay for the cost of recycling their products. We remain fully committed to delivering the programme and much of its delivery will continue to current timeframes, particularly where this work supports industry readiness for its introduction. However, the government recognises that there is a risk that the programme could contribute to inflation, on which it is essential that we continue to bear down.

The 12-month deferral to Extended Producer Responsibility payments will also:

- Provide industry with additional time to prepare for the new requirements, which may include reviewing and improving current packaging use;
- Enable industry and local authorities to be more involved in the design of the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme; and
- Give local authorities and waste management companies more time to adjust current services and thereby improve their supply of recyclable packaging materials.

Today, we have launched a [consultation](#) on the draft regulations that underpin Extended Producer Responsibility scheme to test the clarity of the obligations and understand how they would be implemented. We encourage you to respond.

Furthermore, we will be reviewing the design of the administration functions of the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme. Our objective is to reflect international best practice and thereby ensure they are as producer led as possible. In parallel, we will also establish a small 'shadow' administrator (ahead of the regulations coming into force) to work with the collection and packaging value chain on the set up of these functions. We will commence recruitment of the head of this 'shadow' function shortly and seek a candidate with direct experience of the collection and packaging sector.

We will also develop a circular economy action plan. This will provide a roadmap for sequencing and delivering the full potential of the reforms to achieve our shared collection and packaging reform objectives in an integrated way. This will cover both short-term and the medium-term continuous improvement objectives to drive sustained performance improvements across the whole collection and packaging value chain.

## **Wider Resources & Waste Reforms**

The delivery of our Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers will proceed to current timelines and be introduced from 1 October 2025. This is a joint scheme with Northern Ireland and Wales. We are working towards interoperability with the Scottish Deposit Return Scheme, also now planned to launch from 1 October 2025.

Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England will come in after the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme. More details on this will be set out in due course.

In addition, today we have released details of a number of other resources and waste related reforms:

- We have published the newly updated Waste Prevention Programme, [The Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste for England](#) detailing the policy intent and actions for construction, textiles, furniture, electronics, food, road vehicles and plastics;
- We have published the government response to the consultation on [improved reporting of food waste by large food businesses in England](#). This sets out an enhanced voluntary approach to food waste reporting for large businesses.

We will be hosting a Business Readiness Forum to brief business in more detail on these reforms, on Tuesday 1 August 2023, 10am to 12pm, registration to attend this session can be completed [here](#). Further details can be found in the [CPR newsletter](#).

We would like to work with you and your members to take this work forward to ensure we can make these reforms work for the environment, business and the public.

Many thanks in advance for your support.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Bourne', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Emma Bourne OBE  
Director of Resources & Waste  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs