

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

---

1 March 2023

Dear Convener

I am writing to you to provide an update on Scotland's deposit return scheme which I will also set out in a statement to Parliament today.

I am pleased to confirm that, as of this morning, businesses representing over 90% of the total volume of drinks containers sold in Scotland each year have completed registration with Circularity Scotland for Scotland's deposit return scheme.

This marks an important milestone for the scheme but I also understand there are still concerns among producers, and particularly the smallest companies affected by the scheme. I have consistently said that SEPA will take a flexible approach where possible and it is important that those producers not yet registered know that SEPA will be pragmatic in their approach. That means that producers can continue to register after yesterday's deadline and SEPA and Circularity Scotland will support them to do so.

I will continue to listen to feedback from businesses and, in response to feedback from some producers, Scottish Government officials will explore the potential to have a grace period for them. While this consideration is taking place, it is still essential that all producers register for the scheme with SEPA, if they have not already done so.

Today also sees the scheme move to the next stage of implementation by Circularity Scotland with its announcement of the launch of the registration process for the return point operators where customers can return their empty containers and reclaim their deposit.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



Accredited  
Until 2020



I will continue to keep Parliament updated as we move towards the launch of our deposit return scheme in August.

Kind regards

**LORNA SLATER**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



Accredited  
Until 2020

