



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Lorna Slater MSP  
Minister for Green Skills, Circular  
Economy and Biodiversity  
Scottish Government

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

By email only

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15 June 2023

Dear Lorna,

**Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme**

Thank you for attending the meeting of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee on 13 June to discuss Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS).

Following the meeting, we agreed to write to you to reiterate the importance of ensuring a complete and unamended March Gateway Review is shared with us at the earliest opportunity.

You will recall that as part of our evidence session [on 14 March](#) you first committed to sharing the findings of the review and the Scottish Government's response. In follow-up correspondence to us [on 24 March](#) you said "the review report is currently in the process of being finalised. Therefore I will share the review findings with the Committee in due course".

[On 27 April](#), I wrote to you raising concerns that the Committee had yet to receive the Gateway Review and requested a timescale for when this would be received. On 17 May, the [Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Amendment Regulations 2023](#) were laid before Parliament. These Regulations were based on the Scottish Government's assessment of "an internal review and independent Gateway review of the readiness of the Deposit Return Scheme in 2023".

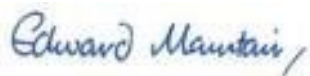
You wrote to the Committee [on 7 June](#) setting out changes to the Scheme and your intention to revisit regulations laid on 17 May 2023. I wrote to you again [on 8 June](#) reminding you of your undertaking to share the findings of the Gateway Review. You responded [on 9 June](#) saying you would "ensure this is provided to Committee before Parliamentary recess".

We recognise you have now conveyed some initial findings from the review during our meeting and appreciate there are aspects of the Gateway Review which have now been overtaken by recent developments. However, the

Committee is disappointed your commitment to provide a copy of the Review was not upheld in advance of our consideration of the Regulations.

I note your reaffirmed commitment to the Committee as part of our session to share the findings from the March Gateway Review before summer recess. I do not consider this to be a suitable timeframe to allow the Committee to consider this in advance of the summer recess and request a copy of the March Gateway Review to be provided this week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain".

Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
**Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee**