



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rt Hon Alister Jack MP  
Secretary of State for Scotland  
Dover House  
Whitehall  
London  
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**Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
Committee**

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

By email only

[netzero.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:netzero.committee@parliament.scot)

8 September 2023

Dear Alister,

**Invitation to a meeting of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee**

Thank you for your [letter of 20 July](#) regarding Scotland's deposit return scheme (DRS). I also refer you to correspondence from the Minister for Environmental Quality and Resilience [dated 22 August](#) on this matter.

The Committee finds the way our invitation has been handled frustrating. It is not helpful to be passed from pillar to post by two arms of the same government, when a coordinated response agreed between your two departments setting out whether the invitation could be accepted ought, in the Committee's view, to have been possible.

Whilst I appreciate that the UK Government might consider that there are good reasons why it should not, at this point, take part in a public discussion on DRS, and wider issues relating to intergovernmental relations around it, it was also disappointing that neither response from the UK Government gave any substantive reasons for turning our invitation down. As you will know, difficulties around DRS – and the taxpayer's potential financial exposure as a result of those difficulties – are a matter of great public interest and concern in Scotland. It is therefore reasonable to expect a clear explanation of why the invitation was declined.

I request that further consideration is given to our invitation. If this issue sits outwith your Cabinet portfolio, I would be grateful if you could make internal representations to ascertain whether a UK Minister is available to appear at Committee.

On behalf of the Committee, I request a response by 30 September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a trailing flourish.

Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee**