



Department
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Dear Chief Executive,

Resources & Waste Reforms

This week, the government has set out 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. This deferral relates to the point at which producers will begin to pay for the cost of recycling their products.

Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging will see producers pay for the cost of recycling their products. This will support the polluter pays principle and we remain fully committed to delivering the programme. However, we recognise that there is a risk that the programme could contribute to inflation, on which it is essential that we continue to bear down.

A 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 local authorities and industry 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 also launched a consultation on the draft regulations that underpin Extended Producer Responsibility to test the clarity of the obligations and understand how they would be implemented. I encourage you to have your say [here](#).

We will also review the design and functions of the EPR scheme administrator, in light of international best practice, with the collection and packaging supply chain, including local

government; and develop an action plan to ensure that our reforms are set up to deliver an effective circular economy.

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.

The 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 launched the government response on the [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.

Further details on the announcements can be found in the [CPR newsletter](#).

We will continue to work closely with your colleagues and will be hosting a meeting of our Local Authority Stakeholder Engagement Forum on Wednesday 2 August, 2:00pm to 3:30pm. This Forum is a monthly meeting on resources and waste issues led by Defra for local government representatives. Forum members will have received an invite to this session already. If your authority is not a member of this forum, please [email](#) to be added to the invite list.

In addition, I would be happy to discuss any of these measures and how we can further support you in their implementation, please [email](#) to arrange. I look forward to working with you and your team to deliver on our shared environmental goals.

Best wishes,



Emma Bourne OBE
Director - Resources & Waste
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