

Mark Drakeford AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid
Cabinet Secretary for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-803
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00051/18

David John Rowlands AM
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13 February 2018

Deu David,

Thank you for your letter informing me of the petition from The Friends of Barry Beaches in relation to taxing single use plastics. I have today announced my intention in relation to each of the four shortlisted taxes I set out on 3 October, which included a potential disposable plastics tax. There has been considerable interest in, and support for, a tax on disposable plastics in Wales.

Since the original shortlist, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the Autumn Budget that the UK Government will launch a call for evidence this year about how it will address the issue of single use plastics, including through the use of tax.

I have discussed the call for evidence with UK Treasury Ministers. As a result we have secured Welsh involvement in the process. The call for evidence will be published before Easter, and we will contribute to the analysis of the findings following the call for evidence, and share Welsh views on the development of policy options. Wales has the third best recycling rates in the world – we are at the forefront of the waste agenda and have much to offer in terms of our extensive experience and research capability.

We will also continue to work on a standalone disposable plastics tax for Wales. This remains an option for Wales and will be informed by the results of a study on extended producer responsibility, which the Minister for Environment is leading on, and I understand is due to report shortly. This study focuses on key commonly used food and drink related packaging types and includes an analysis of deposit return schemes and taxes.

Best wishes,

Mark.

Mark Drakeford AM/AC

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