

From the Permanent Secretary
Katrina Godfrey

Our reference: SCORR-0114-2023

Sara Steele
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Obo: The People and Communities
Committee

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Dear Sara

FUTURE DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME PROPOSED TIMELINE

Thank you for your letter of 13th March 2023 conveying the concerns of the Council's People and Communities Committee about the timescales for implementing the planned Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) here.

It might be helpful for me to explain that the Department is working in partnership with its counterpart departments in England and Wales to deliver a joint DRS that will operate in all three jurisdictions. Timescales for its implementation have been agreed by Ministers and are designed to ensure that they are both ambitious and realistic.

It is also important to stress that the timescales have been informed by formal consultation on the most appropriate timeframe for delivery of the scheme and by further stakeholder engagement and evaluation of delivery. This has led to the decision that the DRS for England, Wales and Northern Ireland should start from 1 October 2025.

You can read the full consultation at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/introducing-deposit-return-scheme-england-wales-and-northern-ireland> and the government response at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/deposit-return-scheme-summary-2021-consultation-responses-and-publication-government-response>.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and for the interest that the Committee has taken in the scheme.

Yours sincerely



KATRINA GODFREY

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.