



**Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs**

Rebecca Pow MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T 03459 335577
defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Councillor Chris Lamb
Cabinet Spokesperson for Place
Cabinet Members' Office
Town Hall
Barnsley
S70 2TA

Our ref: PO2020/09848/MP

29 October 2020

cllrchrislamb@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your letter of 5 March to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and to me about the Resources and Waste Strategy and the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Waste Partnership. I apologise for the unacceptable delay in replying. Defra is currently dealing with high volumes of correspondence due to COVID-19. Thank you for your understanding during this challenging time.

I am pleased to hear of your support for the Resources and Waste Strategy and interested to read about all you are doing in South Yorkshire to minimise waste, maximise use of resources and increase recycling. It might be helpful if I update you on progress on the Resources and Waste Strategy. As you know, the Environment Bill, which has begun its passage through Parliament, includes legislation for the introduction of a deposit return scheme (DRS) for drinks' containers, extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging and consistency in recycling. The committee stages of the Environment Bill are due to resume shortly.

We are preparing to publish consultations in early 2021 which will seek views on the details of DRS, EPR and consistency in recycling, such as where exemptions might apply. We very much hope that you will respond to the consultations. We are reviewing the timeline for the introduction of the reforms.

Finally, I want to thank you for your continued efforts to maintain waste collection services over the last few months. I know this has not been without challenge and you will have had to make some difficult operational decisions to keep residents and employees safe.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance with this or any other matters in the future.

REBECCA POW MP