

Public Letter

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
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6 March 2023

Dear First Minister,

Deposit Return Scheme must be delayed

We are all determined to play our part in driving sustainability, enabling a circular economy, improving recycling rates and tackling waste and litter. We share the objectives that DRS was set out to deliver, but in its current form, and without change, it is destined to fail.

For months business groups and trade associations have sought clarity on how the scheme will function and have made comprehensive suggestions that could make it work. In good faith, businesses across Scotland have spent precious time and resources to understand and implement the scheme. But it is clear to us now that these efforts, and those of trade associations that have worked so hard to make the scheme work, have not been matched by Ministers and will not deliver a DRS fit for purpose.

With the deadline for registration having elapsed with fewer than one in five producers registered, we have heard from the Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity that businesses want DRS to continue. We can tell you businesses the length and breadth of Scotland's communities do not.

Instead we believe we need to delay, review and rethink DRS plans, and give businesses more time to prepare and allow them to sign up for a scheme in which they can have confidence will deliver and without taking on unacceptable liability.

You will know the economic conditions in which Scotland's businesses are operating, with inflationary pressures hitting bottom lines. You will know the economic recovery following the pandemic is fragile, and not to be taken for granted. You will also know the pressure hard-pressed businesses and consumers are under. Given this, pressing on with DRS in its current form would be reckless.



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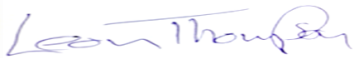
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Cc.

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Ivan McKee MSP, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise

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Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

Co-Signatories

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Adam Neil, Manager, The Jolly Judge
Allan Donald, Director, The Laroche Restaurant and Bar
Andrew Mckenzie Smith, MD, The Lindores Distilling Co Ltd
Grant Mulholland, Director , The old mill kitchen limited
Alex Taylor, Founder, The Online Tasting Company
Jane Brown, The Orchard Biggar Limited
LARA HOURIE, OWNER, THE ORKNEY DAIRY
James Robertson, Director, The Own Label Company Scotland Ltd
Jodi Turner, Owner, The Patch, Speyside
Geoffrey Smeddle, Owner, The Peat Inn
Nigel A Large, Director, The Pitcairngreen Inn
JOYCE MATTHEWS, Partner, The Scottish Alchemists
Gill MacKellar, Office Manager, The Shetland Distillery Company Ltd

Ben Curtis, Director, The Single cask ltd
Ian Spooner, Co-Founder, The Spirit Of One
Jilly Wilson, The Square Peg
Craig Strachan, Founder, The Start Up Drinks Lav
Lynne Lino, Owner, The Steading Bar
Quintin stevens, Director, The storehouse, Foulis Ferry, Evanton, Ross Shire IV16 9UX
Graham Bucknall, Managing Director, The TBC Pub Company Limited
Sheena Cochrane, The Vault
Daniel MacIntyre, The View, Oban
Nigel Finlay, Partner, The Volunteer Arms
Lachlan Rooney, Director, The Voodoo Rooms
Nathan Pride, General Manager, The Waiting Room
Dr. Christian Stolte, Owner, The Wee Scottish Cider Company Ltd.
Dawn Davies, Buying Director, The Whisky Exchange
Gordon Wallace, Owner, The Wine Library
Rachel Haughton, General manager , The Wine Press
Steve Finlan, Chief Executive , The Wine Society
Rory Benham, Sales Director, The Wine Treasury Ltd
Jim Harrison, Founder & Chair, Thornbridge Brewery Ltd
Gordon Mcinnes, Director, Titan Spirits Ltd
Jane White , Owner, Tolbooth Tavern
Fiona Walsh, Director, Toll House Spirits
William Torrance, Torrie Taverns
Bryan Morrison, MD, Torrisoule Cider and Apple Ltd
Alan Cunningham, Director, Totalize Media
Heather Nelson, Owner, Toulvaddie Distillery Ltd
Tony Hobbs, Director, Tranquil Still
Imogen Gardiner , Director of Public Affairs , Treasury Wine Estates
Ben Glasgow, Director, Tweed Valley Distilling Co
Kevin Bonarius, Founder, Twice Buried Rum Co
Craig Campbell, Director, Two Chimneys (Uddingston) Ltd
Sandy McKelvie, Director, Two towns down brewing
Jon Erasmus, Owner, Uile-bheist
Jake Griffin, Proprietor, Up Front Brewing
David Hall, Owner, Vesta Bar & Kitchen
Kenneth Vannan, Villeneuve Wines Ltd
Andrew Lundy, Vino
Robin Antony, Finance Controller, Vinum Ltd
Graeme Weir, Chief Financial Officer, Virgin Wine Online Limited
Nicholas Hyde, Chairman, Vranken Pommery UK
Michael Johnstone , Managing Director, Walkie Talkie Brewing Co.
Conall Low, Director, Wasted Degrees Brewing
Niall Kennedy, Owner, Wee Beer Shop
Rory Gammell, Director, Wee Spirit Limited
Isabella Wemyss, Director, Wemyss Family Spirits/Kingsbarns Distillery
Lucy Hicks, Director, West Highland Breweries Ltd (T/A Glen Spean Brewing C)
Nicholas Millar Henderson, Whighams Wine Cellars
Daniel Milne, Managing Director, Whisky Hammer
Finlay Geekie, Owner, Wild Thyme Spirits
James Robertson, Director, Wildcat Spirits Ltd

James L Wilkie, Director, Wilkies Bar Ltd
Chris Williams, Director, Williams Bros Brewing Co
Nigel Tiddy, Founder/Managing Director , Windswept
Brewing Co
Neil Renton, Managing Director, Wine Importers

Steve Holligan, Winton Brewery
Woody Tan, Woodrow's of Edinburgh
Laurie Freeman, Zingibear Limited
Bobby Gibson, Zoobie Ltd
Blair Bowman, Whisky Consultant