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*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for contacting me about a bottle deposit return system.

We can be in no doubt that plastic is wreaking havoc on our marine environment and degrading our most precious habitats. It is vital we act now to tackle this threat and curb the millions of plastic bottles a day that go unrecycled.

Ministers remain committed to developing a deposit return scheme in England for single use drinks containers to incentivise people to recycle plastic and glass. These schemes see consumers pay an up-front deposit that is redeemed on return of the empty drink container. That being said, it is important to recognise that the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the economy and society in unimaginable ways, with many people reassessing their values, decisions and priorities in both the immediate and longer term. On this basis, our second consultation currently being carried out builds on the first, offering a chance to explore further what the continued appetite is for a deposit return scheme in a 'post-Covid' context. The second consultation will also inform how a future scheme can be designed in the best and most coherent way possible to deliver on the objectives set out for introducing such a policy.

Full details of the consultation can be found here:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environment/consultation-on-introducing-a-drs/>.

The Government has already taken strong action to reduce plastic waste; 15.6 billion fewer bags have been handed out to shoppers by the seven main retailers since the introduction of the plastic bag charge in 2015 and the ban on plastic microbeads in cosmetic products has been welcomed as one of the toughest in the world. It is now time to take action on plastic bottles to help clean up our oceans.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**

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