



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

23rd August 2021

Jean Contrevent,

RE: PLASTIC WASTE

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding the growing issue of plastic waste. I have read your comments on this with great interest and consideration.

Without urgent action to cut demand, it is estimated that 34 billion tonnes of plastic will have been manufactured globally by 2050. The *Resources & Waste Strategy* sets out plans to reduce, reuse, and recycle more plastic than we do now. The target is to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste throughout the life of the Government's *25 Year Environment Plan*, but for the most problematic plastics, Ministers are going faster and have committed to work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable, or compostable by 2025.

Furthermore, to keep products in circulation for longer, Ministers are taking steps through the *Environment Bill* to require products to be designed to be durable, repairable, and recyclable, as well as legislating for the use of extended producer responsibility schemes in a way that incentivises more resource efficient design. The Bill also includes powers to enable other commitments to be delivered which will improve the quantity and quality of the materials we recycle. These include commitments to implement a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers and the introduction of consistent recycling collections across the country.

Furthermore, my ministerial colleagues have announced key details of the world leading Plastic Packaging Tax. The initial rate of the tax will be £200 per tonne and it will be paid by manufacturers and importers of plastic packaging that contains less than 30 percent recycled plastic. Building on the microbeads ban, restrictions on the supply of plastic straws, drinks stirrers and cotton buds came into force on the 1st October 2020, with exemptions to ensure that those with medical needs or a disability are able to continue to access plastic straws.



Following the introduction of the Plastic Packaging Tax in April 2022, the rate will be kept under review to ensure that the tax remains effective in increasing the use of recycled plastic in plastic packaging. The Government has now published the summary of responses to the consultation on the detailed design and implementation of the tax itself. Alongside the summary of responses to the consultation, draft legislation for the Plastic Packaging Tax was also published. I know that the Government will continue to engage with businesses involved in the manufacture and import of plastic packaging to ensure the legislation is fit for purpose and the tax can be successfully introduced in April 2022.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'T. Pursglove', with a horizontal line underneath.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**