



Department
for Environment
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The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
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Our ref: PO2020/06381/KB

10 June 2020

Dear Carolyn and Judith,

Thank you for your letter of 10 March and kind words of congratulation. I apologise for the 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 absolutely delighted that the Prime Minister has appointed me as Environment Secretary; it is a huge job to take on and a great honour. I know the department well and it is a real privilege to be responsible for the protection and enhancement of our natural environment as well as championing our food, farming and fishing sectors. Our climate is changing and the Prime Minister is clear: this Government was elected on the strongest ever manifesto for the environment. We will prioritise tackling climate change and helping nature recover both here and abroad, whether that's recycling more and wasting less, planting trees and safeguarding forests, protecting our ocean, saving species, or pioneering new approaches to agriculture.

I actively welcome your continued engagement with Defra, which is important in improving the work of the department and the Government as a whole.

The Government wants to make it easier for the public to recycle and we are taking this forward through our Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS), published in 2018. Building on commitments made in the RWS, the Government consulted on a number of measures to significantly change the way that we manage our waste, cut plastic pollution, and move towards a circular economy.

Last year, the Government held a consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England. This consultation sets out measures to reduce confusion and increase participation by requiring all households and businesses to present a core set of materials, including many plastics, separately for recycling. These materials include: glass; paper and card; plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays; metal tins and cans; food waste; and garden waste. Following support for this proposal (you can read the full response here): <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/waste-and-recycling-making-recycling-collections-consistent-in-england>, the draft legislation in the Environment Bill stipulates that this core set of materials will be collected in England.

The consultation also asked for views on introducing a uniform recycling labelling system for all packaging, including plastic packaging. Following strong support for the proposal, the Government is minded to take forward a mandatory UK-wide labelling scheme for all packaging, including plastic packaging.

Labelling will be taken forward as part of the reforms to the producer responsibility system, which will see packaging producers pay the full net-cost of managing their packaging when it becomes waste. The Environment Bill will introduce legislation to ensure clear product labelling on packaging material.

Together these measures will make recycling clearer and easier, better preserving material value and helping to grow demand for recyclables. A clear and simple labelling system should help reduce confusion and increase participation in recycling.

The organic cosmetics products area is not covered by Defra. Our organic remit is organic products for human consumption and feed for animals, ie. Organic animals for human consumption. The legislation applicable to organic cosmetics is the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CUTR), and the Cosmetics Directive (Regulation No EC 1229/2009). The CUTR outlaws false or misleading commercial practices, including the giving of false or misleading information as to the properties or origins of products. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) leads on both of the above pieces of legislation. I would therefore suggest that you contact BEIS directly about your concerns in this area: enquiries@beis.gov.uk or Secretary.State@beis.gov.uk.



RT HON GEORGE EUSTICE MP