



Exchange For Change
100 Avebury Blvd
Milton Keynes MK9 1FH
www.exchangeforchange.co.uk

27 February 2026

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government
Ty Hywel
Bae Caerdydd
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

Dear Deputy First Minister,

Re: Application to act as Deposit Management Organisation in Wales

Thank you for your letter of 19th February 2026, and for your detailed response to our application to act as the Deposit Management Organisation for the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in Wales.

We appreciate you taking the time to set out clearly the initial review of our submission, based on the Welsh government's criteria for assessment.

We also were grateful to receive your offer to meet with officials and discuss the points of clarification provided by the Assessment Panel. We felt it was important to gain a full understanding of the context to a number of the points raised, therefore we requested a meeting on your advice as soon as possible.

Officials were able to meet with us on Monday 23rd February, which resulted in a productive and mutually helpful workshop to discuss areas of concern, and in an in-depth review of points that we accept required more detail in our original submission.

It became clear from this meeting that we are aligned on the shared intent to see Wales continue not only its strong commitment to recycling, but also the ambition to conduct trials as a pathway to reuse. In addition, we are very keen to work in close partnership with local authorities, the Welsh Local Government Association, Natural Resources Wales and NGOs such as Keep Wales Tidy to deliver on this ambition.

In developing and managing a DRS for Wales, I wish to reassure the Welsh government that we are very cognisant of our role in ensuring the citizen experience is convenient and seamless. Central to this approach is designing a scheme that is both interoperable across all four nations of the United Kingdom, while providing our commitment to customising the scheme where possible for Wales. For example, this would include ensuring our citizen communication is conducted in both Welsh and English, and that accessibility is kept front of mind in all of our design decisions.

Therefore, in light of the feedback from the Assessment Panel, and in consideration of the insights provided by officials, I am pleased to submit our updated application to act as the Deposit Management Organisation in Wales, for the government's assessment and review.

As part of this submission, we commit to embedding a dedicated workforce in Wales, which would operate at the centre of DRS delivery, in partnership with the Welsh government. This would provide ongoing close collaboration with all stakeholders to establish a credible pathway to reuse in Wales.

Our updated submission also addresses the clarifications required by the Panel, to the fullest extent possible, on organisational completeness, governance and accountability, operational delivery in Wales, consumer-facing arrangements and financial robustness.

Deputy Minister, thank you for providing us with the opportunity to update our submission. We remain at your disposal should you wish to discuss any element of our application in further detail and look forward to receiving your response in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Russell Davies
Chief Executive Officer