



## British Glass

19 March 2020

Nicola Sturgeon  
Scottish First Minister  
Unit 3  
Govanhill Workspace  
69 Dixon Road  
Glasgow G42 8AT

Dear First Minister


I write on behalf of the Glass Container manufacturing industry, which services the significant whisky, spirits, beer, food and beverage business that are vital to the Scottish economy. We are deeply disappointed with the decision to include glass in the DRS legislation laid yesterday, and even more so given surrounding circumstances of the impending economic crisis that will undoubtedly result from measures being implemented to contain the COVID19 situation.

I find it bewildering that in these most challenging times, the Scottish Government has continued with this legislation; the future viability of many critical businesses in the beverage supply-chain will be adversely impacted by the introduction of this DRS, and now with the threat of COVID-19 compounding the situation, we are truly fearful of business closures, including glass manufacturing.

Uncertainty over the final repercussions of BREXIT, the continued impact of related legislation on minimum unit pricing and the steady erosion of pubs and clubs has already seen a significant impact on this sector. With a pandemic of this scale already underway, I would have thought a moratorium on new legislation until the end of the current crisis, would best demonstrate a more sensible and rational approach to protecting society and the economy for the long-term. We must all pull together to survive, and we do not see this as supporting the greater good, given the prevailing circumstances.

Disappointed as we are, if there is no mechanism to suspend this process, then we at least would request a seat at all of the appropriate tables to guide the implementation so as to ensure we have some say in how it is delivered. It is imperative that we play a significant part in the appointment and scoping of the System Administrator. Also, we would ask to be active members of the Implementation Advisory Group, rather than spectators, as we have been condemned to be throughout the process thus far. Our aim now is to make sure that important factors clearly, and we fear sometimes deliberately, overlooked or ignored in the process so far, can be included and properly debated before the systems go live in 2022.

British Glass  
9 Churchill Way, Chapeltown, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S35 2PY. UK.  
Tel: +44 (0) 114 290 1850, Fax: +44 (0) 114 290 1851  
[www.britglass.org.uk](http://www.britglass.org.uk)



I would welcome your thoughts on these points and your support in gaining positions on the relevant groups and committees, as requested above. We seek to improve the health, wealth and prosperity of society and the environment and need a seat at the table to be able to do this effectively.

Yours sincerely



David Dalton  
Chief Executive  
British Glass Manufacturers' Confederation

