



Biffa

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Subject: Request for Meeting to Discuss UK Plastic Industry Policy

Dear Alistair Carmichael,

Thank you for raising the important issue of plastic pollution and the Global Plastics Treaty to the EFRA Committee at House of Commons debate on 17th June 2025. We were encouraged to see cross-party support, and broad consensus across the House that more must be done. We believe that the UK can and should take ambitious domestic action alongside international efforts.

Biffa Waste Services, employing more than 11,000 individuals and servicing 100,000 business customers and 2 million households, is a key player in the waste, resources and polymer industry. We operate three polymer facilities across the UK processing 165,000 tonnes of plastic for recycling each year.

Your comments, and those from across the House, strongly resonated with us. We advocate for a comprehensive package of policy interventions aimed at managing plastic waste domestically, strengthen the recycling industry by driving demand for recycled content, and creating the right environment for investment in infrastructure. This is not only critical from an environmental standpoint, but also because continued mismanagement undermines our ambitions for a circular economy. As you rightly stated, “the fundamental truth is that the best opportunity for business comes from having a circular economy.”

We are ready to step up processing of recyclate. We agree with the House that the UK’s domestic recycling capacity is insufficient if we are to take full responsibility for our plastic waste. Key to this is ensuring plastic is effectively collected, and reprocessed here in the UK to ensure it does not enter the environment. Exporting our waste is not a sustainable or responsible solution – it also effectively exports raw materials and jobs abroad. This is not just about the environmental impact; it is about unlocking a significant boost to the UK economy AND future proofing supply chains and resources to drive growth.

Underpinning this must be policy that creates and sustains demand for recycled materials. At present, current frameworks are not delivering the necessary market conditions to support and drive plastic recycling in the UK and the next steps towards a circular economy.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we believe this can be addressed. We would be pleased to provide a verbal or written briefing either at our polymer recycling facility in Redcar or at your convenience in Parliament.

Yours sincerely,
James McLeary

Managing Director, Biffa Polymers

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