



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

**Jo Churchill MP**  
Minister for Agri-Innovation and Climate Adaptation

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Sir William Cash MP  
Chair  
European Scrutiny Committee  
14 Tothill Street  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1H 9NB

16 March 2022

Dear Sir William,

**EM 14135/21: PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON SHIPMENTS OF WASTE AND AMENDING REGULATIONS (EU) NO 1257/2013 AND (EU) NO 2020/1056**

Thank you for your letter of 23 February 2022 in response to our Explanatory Memorandum on the above proposal.

You requested an update on progress of our engagement with EU Member States to assess the level of support for measures in the proposal. My officials have so far had conversations with representatives from the Irish and Dutch Governments; both emphasised that the proposal is at an early stage and could be subject to change as the negotiations continue under the EU's Ordinary Legislative Procedure. UK Government representatives in Brussels understand that there have not yet been any substantive negotiations and that these are unlikely until the second half of 2022. My officials are meeting with European Commission officials later this month to discuss key points from the proposal.

You asked what the Government's plans are to give effect to the International Waste Shipments (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2021 which were laid in December 2020 and, in the absence of those measures, how we are ensuring compliance with the UK's obligations. The UK government continues to consider its approach to implementing the Northern Ireland Protocol with respect to movements of waste and we continue to discuss this with the European Commission. Our primary focus continues to be on ensuring businesses in Great Britain and Northern Ireland are supported. The UK, meanwhile, continues to be in full compliance with our international obligations under the Basel Convention and the OECD Decision on waste (OECD/LEGAL/0266), as implemented by Regulation No 1013/2006 on shipments of waste.

You asked whether any conclusions of the EU's assessment may be relevant to future UK policy development and, if so, how we intend to incorporate these into future policy. You also asked me to set out a clear timetable for the consultation, and entry into force, of the manifesto commitment to ban exports of plastic waste to non-OECD countries; and you asked for the Government's reflections on the EU's partial ban on the export of plastic waste to non-OECD countries and whether the EU's approach strikes the appropriate balance between sustainability and the practicalities of a full ban.

In our Resources and Waste Strategy for England we committed to consulting on actions to better manage and control waste exports. We intend to consult on possible actions, in addition to options for delivering a ban on the export of plastic waste to non-OECD countries by December 2022. We will analyse a wide range of information as part of a robust policy development process ahead of that consultation, including the EU's approach. The date by which the ban will be implemented will be informed by responses to the consultation.

Finally, you asked whether we plan to work with the EU at a multilateral level on plans for a new international agreement on plastics, alongside actions to reduce pollution from e-waste, used vehicles and textile waste. The UK is proud to support the resolution agreed at UNEA 5.2 on ending plastic pollution and we will continue to work closely with many delegations including the EU on the multilateral negotiations to tackle this important issue. We are also aware of the EU's initiatives in the areas of e-waste, used vehicles and textiles waste which we will continue to monitor and engage where appropriate.

I am copying this letter to Lord Kinnoull, Chair of the Lords European Affairs Committee; the Clerks of the Commons and Lords EU Committees; Les Saunders, Cabinet Office; and Steve Wigham, Defra Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Churchill', written in a cursive style.

**JO CHURCHILL MP**