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From Joan Ruddock MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary - Climate Change, Biodiversity and Waste

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter of 9 June regarding the Batteries Directive.

The Government supports the Batteries Directive as it is consistent with the Waste Strategy and Sustainable Development Strategy in aiming to reduce the quantity of hazardous and non hazardous waste batteries going to landfill and increasing the recovery of waste materials. We are aiming to have effective and workable Regulations that are cost effective for those with producer obligations, that minimise additional costs for consumers, but that ensures that the environmental benefits of the directive are achieved within the UK.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), which is part-funded by Defra, has been asked to undertake work to develop options for cost effective UK battery collection. In terms of household batteries, Defra have asked WRAP to pilot collection schemes by working in partnership with a range of local authorities and not for profit organisations that already run recycling collection services.

The trials form part of a wider effort to develop cost-effective ways for the UK to meet the targets of the EU Batteries Directive. The results of the various trials will be used to help the Government identify the best mechanisms and most efficient methods of collection that could be rolled out across the UK. It will be through a combination of collection methods that the UK will achieve the Directive targets. Schools and local authorities have already become involved in battery collection.

Where specific battery collection/ recycling is not currently available in the local area, members of the public are encouraged to check if their local authority provides household battery collection principally via civic amenity site and in the interim consumers are encouraged to use those.

Further information on battery recycling is available from the WRAP website, via the following link:

http://www.wrap.org.uk/local_authorities/batteries/battery_recycling_information/index.html

With best wishes,



JOAN RUDDOCK