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Dear Dame Ellen,

Thank you for meeting with me recently to discuss action on plastics and our proposed deposit return scheme. Scotland has been leading the way on plastics and continues to do so. We are committed to tackling our throw-away society and have already taken steps to legislate against microbeads and plastic stemmed cotton buds. We have convened an Expert Panel to offer advice on how to inspire behaviour change around the use and disposal of plastics and single use items.

Taking action on plastic waste and furthering our aims for a circular economy for the benefit of a global society is a crucial part of our work. As you know we are introducing a Deposit Return Scheme for Scotland which we believe will drive up recycling rates as well as increasing our capacity for plastics reprocessing in Scotland.

The UK Plastics Pact and the Global Plastics Action Partnership will go along way to furthering this work in line with our Making Things Last Strategy – A Circular Economy for Scotland (2016).

The New Plastics Economy Global Commitment is another important way to encourage focussed action on plastics by governments, urban centres and industry. We are supportive of the over-arching principles and the goals that you strive to achieve. I am delighted to say that Scotland is happy to be a signatory to this commitment, both in conjunction with the rest of the UK and in our own right. We hope that our signature will encourage other nations and businesses to join forces to make a tangible change in this important area of action.

Yours
R. Cunningham

Roseanna Cunningham

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