**Sample letter to your MSP on the Deposit Return Scheme**

Find out who your MSP is at: <https://www.parliament.scot/msps/current-and-previous-msps>

Please let Barry.Watts@siba.co.uk know if you write and get a reply.

Title: Impact of DRS on my brewery

Dear [MSP NAME]

May I congratulate you on your election to the Scottish Parliament. I’m from a local independent brewery which will be severely impacted by the Scottish Government’s plan to introduced a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) next year.

We are conscious of our environmental responsibilities and want to do more to help reduce our dependency on the natural world. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has hit my business hard and it will take many years for us to recover. The next 12 months will be a crunch time for us, having to try and keep our business afloat and reduce our debt with many of the costs of DRS, including labelling changes and producer fees, starting to fall as we are trying to rebuild.

Please will you raise my concerns with the Cabinet Secretary and urge the Scottish Government to consider a stepped introduction for DRS – where large companies go first and small producers have more time to prepare. Global companies can more easily adapt to the costs and scale of the challenge than we can and by delaying its introduction for small brewers we can have a scheme that works for everyone in Scotland.

Online sales have also been one of the only ways for small brewers to stay afloat during the Covid pandemic and providing a takeback service as well as charging the deposit is technically difficult. We ask that the Cabinet Secretary also reviews their inclusion.

A DRS is being planned for England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2024 and some of the burdens on small brewers can be reduced if the timing was aligned with the rest of the UK. Therefore a more realistic timetable for small producers to deliver the scheme would align with this date.

You can access a guide from the [Society of Independent Brewers](https://www.siba.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/DRS-Scottish-SIBA.pdf) which details the impact that DRS will have on small brewers.

You are also welcome to visit my brewery to see for yourself how DRS will impact our business.

Yours sincerely

NAME

BREWERY