



Writing To Your MSP, Supporting The Message In A Bottle Campaign

There are some basic guidelines we need you to follow to ensure your letter has the greatest chance of influencing your MSP.

- Address you MSP as they are listed on the [Scottish Government website](#). Send your message to your MSP's constituency office, you'll find the address [here](#) in the "Find Your MSP" box.
- Include your address. Send your letter to your constituency MSP, they will take your concerns more seriously if they know you are a potential voter residing in their consistency. You could also write additional letters to your regional MSPs as they cover a much larger area and all of them apart from Glasgow and Central have a coastline.
- Make the message personal to you and relevant to your SMP. You can do this by mentioning how prevalent plastic bottles and cans are across the environments that are important to you. And if you've attended any beach cleans, reference the bottles you found during your event. The Message In A Bottle campaign call for a Deposit Return System to stop bottles and cans from polluting your beaches, seas, rivers and rural spaces.
- Add a few pertinent facts supporting the need for a Deposit Return System in Scotland, for example:
 - 1) A recent independent Scottish poll showed 79% of the Scottish public support for a Deposit Return System for Scotland with only 8% against.
 - 2) Bottles and cans account for 40% of all litter (by volume).
 - 3) In the past 12 months 50,000 plastic bottles have been removed from tidelines around the UK thanks to SAS beach cleans.
 - 4) A Deposit Return System is expected to capture between 80-90% of these bottles and cans in the recycling economy and prevent them from polluting the environment.
 - 5) 150 million people live with Deposit Return Systems across Europe with many more in America and Australia.
 - 6) A Deposit Return System can save local authorities £159 million per annum.

- 7) A Deposit Return System would create a net increase of 4,000 jobs in the UK.
- Call for a deposit return system to be adopted as soon as possible, and ask your MSP to pass on your concerns to the relevant Cabinet Secretary on your behalf: that's Roseanna Cunningham MSP.
 - Keep it to the point. MSPs are busy and a long rambling letter will be ineffective.
 - Ask for a reply.
 - Surfers Against Sewage are members of the Have You Got The Bottle coalition and their [website](#) has an abundance of supporting evidence for how successful a Deposit Return System would work for Scotland.
 - Add the date to your letter and sign off with “yours sincerely”.
 - It's fine to have these letters printed or hand written. But please send them in the post or hand deliver them to your MSP, do not send your message by email.
 - During November we would like your MSP to receive at least 20 letters supporting the Message In A Bottle campaign, calling for a Deposit Return System. This coordinated approach will help persuade your MSP to take action. So please ask your friends and family to also write to their MSP.

Writing this letter shouldn't take more than 5 minutes, but will hopefully be a stepping-stone towards stopping a major source of litter from polluting our environment.

Thanks for your support, Team SAS.

