



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Rebecca Pow MP
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Daniel Zeichner MP
House of Commons
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Dear Mr Zeichner,

Environment Bill – new burdens on local authorities (Clause 54)

I am writing following the Environment Bill Committee stage on 12 November where I agreed to provide more detail on the government's commitment to fund local authorities (LAs) to cover the costs they will incur carrying out their new duties under the Environment Bill relating to separate collection.

The government has publicly committed to funding the costs LAs face as a result of carrying out these duties in the Environment Bill. For example, our consultation on 'consistency in household and business recycling collections in England', which we published in 2019, states 'where new duties are placed on local authorities these will be assessed to account for new burdens, and funded appropriately'. In other words, the government will allocate funding to LAs in accordance with the New Burdens doctrine.

In addition to this, our reforms to producer responsibility obligations for packaging will ensure that producers take responsibility for the full net costs of managing the packaging they place on the market when it becomes waste. This means that producers will have to recompense LAs for collection and treatment of packaging waste they collect from households. This, together with the funding government provides in accordance with the New Burdens doctrine, will ensure LAs are able to carry out their duties on separate collection as required in the Environment Bill.

Yours sincerely,

REBECCA POW MP