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Dear Aaron,

**Request to present to the People and Communities Committee on recycling and the circular economy**

I am writing to you in my capacity as a consultant to Keep Recycling Local (KRL) seeking an opportunity to present to the Environment Committee.

KRL is a recently launched campaign group created to help raise awareness about recycling in Northern Ireland.

Our aim is to ensure that the recyclable materials collected here are also processed in Northern Ireland, to aid the circular economy and benefit our environment.

Currently the reprocessing sector in Northern Ireland provides more than 800 jobs and is worth an average of £100m per annum. We want to grow this for the benefit of the local economy, the environment and to improve the competitiveness of local industry.

Our campaign is led by prominent NI organisations such as Encirc, Enva and Bryson Recycling and is supported by a range of others such as British Glass, Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland, Friends of the Earth, Tetra-Pak, Ulster Wildlife, Action for Cartons in the Environment and Alupro.

We understand that DAERA will soon consult on statutory guidance requiring Councils to separate recycling during collections to maximise the availability of recyclable materials in the local market.

It is our view that, for the Northern Ireland economy to fully benefit from the proposed policy change, materials need to be collected in at least three streams to reduce contamination, ensuring Councils collect high quality materials which can more readily be reprocessed locally.

Streaming collections to maximise the resale potential of household and business recycling has the potential to make a significant saving to the ratepayer.

With the upcoming statutory guidance changes expected to have an impact on how collections are managed, and ahead of the upcoming DAERA consultation, we would appreciate the opportunity to present to members of the Council's Environment Committee at the earliest convenience (post July) to outline the benefits associated with keeping recycling local.

Given the potential savings for Councils, and that this is a core Council service provision, it might also be helpful for officials from the Chief Executive's Office and Finance Directorate to attend. Equally, we would be more than happy to speak with them separately.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours Sincerely

**Nicola Carruthers**

Consultant

Keep Recycling Local

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