



Craig Whittaker MP

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Plastic-free Parliament

Thank you for contacting me about the plastic-free Parliament campaign.

Without urgent action to cut demand, plastic production is likely to reach 34 billion tonnes by 2050, most of which will end up in landfill or polluting the world's continents and oceans. Re-using and recycling plastics is critical. I am glad to tell you that the new 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment commits the Government to working to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste over its lifetime. It sets out a four-point plan for action at each stage of the product lifecycle: production, consumption and end of life. All this will result in the reduction of demand for and use of single-use plastic.

As far as the Parliamentary estate is concerned, none of its waste goes to landfill, with Parliament operating a mixed recycling scheme which captures paper, cardboard, plastics and cans, resulting in the recycling of as much waste as possible. In addition, my colleagues continue to explore new opportunities to recycle and recover waste.

Parliament is currently reviewing the use of single use disposable plastics and is actively involved in a range of initiatives and pilot schemes designed to reduce the amount of plastic thrown away on the estate. One example of this is the introduction of new reusable cups which will be sold in both retail and catering outlets for visitors as well as pass holders. I hope that this will encourage people to think about the amount of plastic they use and will result in the reduction of plastic use across the Parliamentary estate.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Whittaker'.

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