

Rebecca Pow MP  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

27 September 2019

Dear Minister,

**Joint industry letter on further PRN price concerns**

On behalf of the retail, food and drink manufacturing, and packaging manufacturing industries may we congratulate you on your appointment as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State. You have taken on a critical remit at a time when decisions are required that will have a major influence over businesses, society and the planet now and for years to come.

One of the most pressing issues facing the consumer goods industry at present are the huge price increases this year for Packaging Recovery Notes (PRNs). These are adding tens to hundreds of millions of pounds to compliance costs in 2019 without any evidence that the additional money is being used to improve the recycling system. Unless swift action is taken the economic viability of some firms will be under real threat.

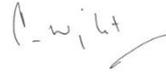
Since writing to your predecessor nearly three months ago (see attached letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019), prices for plastic and aluminium PRNs have remained very high despite some indications that they may fall. The situation is now becoming acute for the industry as we approach the year end with some businesses recording a 10-fold increase in plastic PRN prices from last year. This price rise is both unbudgeted and unsustainable for businesses, adding major financial pressure at a time when significant resources are required to prepare for leaving the European Union.

Given that the situation has now become business critical for our members we seek an urgent meeting with yourself at your earliest convenience to discuss the impact and our proposed solutions.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Opie  
Director Food & Sustainability  
**British Retail Consortium (BRC)**



Ian Wright CBE  
Chief Executive  
**Food and Drink Federation (FDF)**



Philip K. Law  
Director-General  
**British Plastics Federation**



Leendert den Hollander  
Chair, Packaging Working Group  
**Food and Drink Sector Council**



Gavin Partington  
Director General  
**British Soft Drinks Association**



Dick Searle CCMI  
Chief Executive  
**The Packaging Federation**



Martin Kersh  
Executive Director  
**Foodservice Packaging Association**



Stuart Foster  
Chief Executive Officer  
**RECOUP**



Robert Fell  
Director and Chief Executive  
**Metal Packaging Manufacturers Association**



Rick Hindley  
Executive Director  
**ALUPRO**



Jon Clark  
General Manager  
**BPIF Cartons**