



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Alex Rowley MSP**  
**Member for Mid Scotland and Fife**

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Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
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Dear Cabinet Secretary,

#### **PAINT RECYCLING**

I have been contacted by several constituents regarding the Royal Society of Chemistry's #PaintStashers campaign which aims to highlight the issue of disposal of unused paint and calling for more support for paint recycling initiatives, increased access to these initiatives in all areas and direct investment in research programmes for sustainable alternatives to polymers in liquid formulations.

The RSC claim 75% of UK homes contain leftover paint, stashing an estimated 50 million tins of paint while only 2% of leftover paint is reused or remanufactured. Leftover paint can be turned back into high quality paint for reuse without much technical challenge. The problem is access to remanufacturing schemes and recycling options.

I looked into options available in my region through contact with local authorities which showed the disparity in approach in different areas. One area had a paint recycling system in place previously but, despite household promotion and clear signage at the recycling facility, low numbers using the service led to its end. Another area had no paint recycling services in place but were keen to provide this and, in light of the RSC's campaign, were now looking into what options were available to them. Some spoke of local paint-recycling initiatives that, through lack of support over time, unfortunately have ceased providing this much needed service.

With the Scottish Government's aim for a Zero Waste Scotland in mind, what do the Scottish Government intend to do to ensure that the option of paint recycling is available to all areas across Scotland? How will the Scottish Government support local authorities to turn paint into a circular economy?

Kind regards,

Alex Rowley MSP



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