

CONTEXT: Interviews conducted as part of an investigation into the barriers to, and opportunities for, achieving Circular Synthetics. Research was funded by Business of Fashion, Textiles and Technology Creative Research & Development Partnership (BFTT CRDP—£5.5 million) led by the University of the Arts London, part of the UK Creative Industries Clusters Programme (CICP) funded by the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, and delivered by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) on behalf of UK Research and Innovation.

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Interviewee: Circular economy strategy advisor

1: Interviewer

2: Interviewee

1: The first question is can you tell me a bit about the background of [redacted] in relation to textile waste policy and your role within the organization?

2: Sure. A general background to [redacted] Since then, our remit's expanded when we were very much always focused on the end of life. The waste and the recycling and what happens at the end of life of a linear economy.

Then when we've been looking at the fact that London is expected to grow hugely over the next few decades, you very quickly start to realize that you're going to end up with resource problems. You're going to end up with all issues if you don't start to look at the entire system and where resources are coming and how we're using them, and how we can make sure we get the most value out of them.

That's why we now look at circular economy as well. Looking at, how do you make sure you get the most value out of the materials for all sorts of reasons including building resilience. One of the ways that you, if you're looking at an entire system approach, then we have to look at policy because policy is what sets the direction for change. It sets out the frameworks. Where market drivers are missing, it can help to balance the market so that certain areas aren't disadvantaged and make sure that we're helping with that transition to a circular economy.

Now, [redacted] is not the body that is responsible for setting policy. [redacted]. What we do is we help to identify the evidence to provide recommendations of policy that would help to deliver the mayor's vision of a low-carbon circular economy. I also look at projects which try and build that evidence, test how you can do that as well. One of the areas that I focus in on is textiles, as well as colleagues that work with the boroughs, colleagues that focus in on behavior change who I think you've already talked to.

I also look at how we make sure that we're giving the support to businesses in terms of what needs to happen with textiles. That helps us understand more a systematic level what needs to happen. Then we make sure that we are inputting, not just into London policy and advice, but also feeding into national policy and advice as well and international where possible. Obviously, we're not going to be part of Europe but previously we were so I worked on European projects as well.

1: Two things that struck me there. Can you talk a little bit more about how the regional policy, the Mayor of London's policy, relates to national policy?

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2: Sure. The mayor has a statutory-- He has certain powers, so he is allowed to interpret and ensure that national policy is delivered in London. He has certain areas where he is allowed to do that, so transport, for example, the environment in London. He is obliged to set out strategies with policies in them that identify how London will deliver national government policy.

He doesn't have powers in all areas. For example, there is a London Food Strategy, but that's not mandated by the government. Also, the mayor doesn't have the power, for example, to put in place a lot of physical policies, so he can't introduce say a tax on textiles that don't have a certain percentage of recycled content. He can't do that. That's beyond the mayor's remit. You have a little bit of a difficulty between what the mayor can and can't do.

That's why obviously, some of my work is advocating for a national policy as well, as well as international policy. Some of those things are trade issues at an international level, but I don't spend much time on that because I'm London. My focus is London. It's a mixture between what can happen in London and where you can't directly change policy. Policy just means what you're intending to do.

There are a lot of ways where it might not be taxes or it might not be a legislation that can change, but it can be other things like innovation funding, skills programs, jobs programs, any of those things, the mayor has the power to do those things and they're within his budget, so will look to try and make sure that within those schemes and those strategies, the policy is moving to transition to circular economy. Does that answer your question clearly enough?

1: Yes, it really does. It's almost like the mayor has the carrot. All the things that he can do is incentivizing in a way a little bit.

2: He can create sticks but he has less powers than, say, somewhere like America or other European countries where they will have a lot more powers and they probably have a lot more money to spend on certain types of policies. It tends to be a little more creative.

1: Okay, cool. Thanks. The other thing that I was just going to-- before we move on to the next question, you mentioned that some of your work involves suggesting policy at national level and advocating that. What would you see at the moment, as being quite important in the textiles field for that [crosstalk]?

2: The fact that we don't have an extended producer responsibility for textiles. Also, the fact that the Resources and Waste Strategy mentions it as one of several areas that will be looked at before a certain date. That's quite scary because if you think about even if you're not going to look at something like that until a few years in the future, how long it takes to then design that system up, get it right, get it delivered, you're looking at maybe 2030 before something happens. That's really, really late in the day when we need things to happen right now. When you look at how much textile consumption is growing, I feel like that's a bit scary, it's a bit too late.

Also, we've got great examples of where the government were looking at the plastics, so where you have a lack of recycled content, there will be a tax on businesses. The EAC investigation into fixing fashion came up with some really good recommendations. All of those were ignored by the government. My concern is that this is just being pushed completely aside and I actually think that the EAC recommendation of 1p was a pittance. It wouldn't be enough to make an impact on those businesses and really do what is needed. I think it would need to be-- I can't say what it should be, but I think you would need to investigate what that tax should be set at and it needs to be a lot higher than that.

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1: That's brilliant. Thank you. I might come back to that later, but let's move on to the next question for now. If we're thinking specifically about synthetics, so polyester, do you have any specific insights on that as a material stream?

2: When we see it, often, the issues are that it's mixed with something else. Mixed with a cotton to make a t-shirt cheaper which makes recycling a lot more difficult. You're seeing a lot of the items that come through if they're made with that sometimes they're of a cheaper quality, even if they're going through to sorters and collectors for re-use, they're not going to be of a quality that can be re-used and they'll probably end up being shredded.

I know one of the issues that we are bound to see now is the fact that with the oil prices dropping, we're likely to see a lot-- because the price of polyester is going to get so low, the rag trade and the people that are looking at re-use, they were very low down already, they're just going to be on their knees. They're talking to people like Defra about the fact that the industry is on the point of collapse.

I think where you are seeing people using recycled content in their polyester, you're likely to see that becoming much more expensive compared to the raw material costs, so you're going to see a drop in the use of recycled polyester or even people mixing recycled and new and still calling it recycled polyester because there's such a financial advantage to doing that. All of those producers are on their knees at the moment because of what's happened. You can't really blame them for wanting to keep their livelihoods afloat.

I think with all the problems that we already know are associated with the use of polyester as a raw material, it's going to intensify over the coming months. It just highlights the need for us to get moving with improving local recycling and the ability to separate locally and trying to look at design and moving away from sending-- making it so much cheaper to send everything abroad for reprocessing or selling. We need to be looking at how do we help what's happening here as well.

1: Previously you'd said that one of the roles of policy can be to help to level or address the discrepancy in markets. Is there anything, can you imagine this might not be anything that you're looking at or can do, but what could be done about the discrepancy between virgin polyester and recycled polyester in terms of the cost and investment?

2: Yes I think it's that thing, isn't it? It's those two things exactly as you said. It's the cost, are there instruments that address their base cost? Reducing VAT on recycled, creating a requirement for percentage recycled in textiles, looking at the highly contentious idea of moving from taxing people to taxing materials. Also, as you were saying that investment in the internal infrastructure in the UK and making sure that we are looking at how we can scale up what we have at the moment but also investment in the new innovation that's needed to recycle synthetics, mixed synthetics.

There's a lot of nascent technology out there that is doing seemingly amazing things. How do we grow that and make it something that is actually not just a tiny drop in the ocean but is actually, it's part of the system that is actually going to be helping to address some of these issues rather than just a niche project, a CSR type project that a few companies invest in because it's a bit of greenwash, it has to grow to something more than that.

1: Great, you just mentioned there, incentivizing recycled content and then previously you'd said about the possibility that people will say they're using recycled content but then they're not. What needs to happen there in terms of making it really transparent what the recycle content or how the--

2: Yes that's the thing, it's the fact that when you go, I mean you're seeing it at the moment with a certain company that's operating in Leicester and saying, "Oh we didn't know this factory was working for us. They're not on our list. We didn't know." That highlights the fact that you need transparency throughout the entire supply chain. It's something that this is nothing new. It's something that people that work in sustainability and ethics and social aspects of the textiles and fashion have been calling for, for a long time. This just strengthens that need that you have to understand from the point of the material production where that's coming from and that's not an easy job because first, second, third-tier might be okay to trace but what about everything else, all the sale points it goes through?

I think some investment in some of the tech that's allowing that, I don't know whether requirements should be put on the larger brands to require them to do that. I haven't looked into that so I can't really comment. The issue that we hear a lot of is who pays for that technology and who pays for that tracing because the brands will say, "Oh but I only buy from those people occasionally." The people that they buy from say, "Why would I put this particular tracing system in when that company could dump me as a supplier very quickly?"

I don't have the money to put in tracing systems just to satisfy them." There's a whole issue of standardization needed really, but when you're talking about such complex supply chains, it's just going to be a huge, huge area.

I think we are starting to see a few people-- Looking at traceability, blockchain and things like that, I think that needs to be made more secure because obviously blockchain it's great, but it's still, at the moment, down to humans to input the data. You can put in what you like really. That's very simple, that's not how blockchain works. Sorry. I know. I think there are opportunities for-- Yes, it needs to be looked at carefully in terms of how you make sure that those kind of tracing systems are put in place in the right way.

At the moment, if you see the very few organizations that have put those kind of systems in place, it's extremely expensive, it's not mainstream items. You're talking a few hundred pound for a scarf or something like that. It's not the mainstream, it's not how's working at the moment. If you want to do things like RFID tags, you obviously just need to think about what goes into those as well and that you're not creating more waste in other streams as well which probably is a small consideration when you're talking about the other issues that they could help address. I think it needs to be thought about as well.

1: There's no easy fix, is there?

2: No, not at all, not at all, but you're absolutely right that traceability is hot on the heels of some of the other really big issues coming through.

1: You also mentioned there, local approaches. You're talking I guess about like recycling businesses within London. What do you think you can address more on a local regional level that you can't really do at a national level? Is there anything that you would say about the opportunities or the challenges there?

2: I think there's opportunities in terms of collection systems. If we're improving the collection systems, not only the messaging to the public about trying to make sure that they are not throwing clothes in the bin, that they are donating them or taking them back to shops or selling them on, then you're improving the reuse locally at a level you couldn't really do if you had international information because you're not going to be able to say, "Here's your local collection point," or, "This is what your local authority does." You can put your textiles in your local bin or the local charity shops that do this are X, Y, Z. You can only do that at a local level.

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The improving the collection systems, again, there can be support locally for collectors, for people that do the sorting, so the sorters and recyclers. If you have schemes in terms of-- there's a lot of problems with the skills of sorters. Where you used to have lots of different types of sorting. I think one local company used to sort into about 14 different categories and now do about 3. You lose that kind of skill. It's probably not just a skill, it's probably the pay points that you need for those jobs but are there skills, are there job incentive packages that you can create locally? Do we have the right infrastructure and systems in the first place? Looking at mapping locally, what infrastructure is available, where the gaps are, and where they need to be filled? You can't do that really at enough of a granular level at a national or international level. You're just not going to understand it.

You can do that at a city or even more locally level to look at where's the gaps in the supply chain and the value chain and how do we fill those? That may be again through looking at strategies, bringing businesses together to where you've identified those gaps, and identifying with them what would you need to invest in these areas or to make sure that we fill these areas and create the value that we need?

I think working with potentially policymakers, and businesses can help that as well. Again, you can do that obviously on a national level and we have to do that on the national level, but we can also do that at a more local level to really tailor what's needed. We need to look forward as well. You can't just tailor for now. We need to be looking at tailoring for the future as well and looking at what are the scenarios for London in the future in terms of our textile use or how we go throughout that cycle of design, creation, manufacture, re-manufacture, disposal and getting it back. How do we drive that cycle?

1: That's really interesting. I'm thinking about something which perhaps is beyond the scope of the mayor in terms of investment, but getting some of that infrastructure for future cyclability of materials, I'm thinking about the big facilities that the chemical recyclers would need. How do you as a regional approach, how do you engage with that bigger picture in terms of getting access to that or how you would plan for that in the future?

2: It's a really good question and I don't have a solid answer, I don't think. I think our role is to advocate for the creation of those facilities to look at where potentially the facilities would be needed--

1: I'm sorry I've interrupted you now, your chain of thought.

2: That's okay. What were we talking about? The fact that if we're looking at the large factories, I think our role in terms of local, helping to shape that and pushing for the right strategies and policies to be in place would be around potentially bringing together and facilitating what the business is. Where we have the headquarters of certain brands and very large fashion organizations in London, looking at what do they need, what would they require to be using those facilities, how could they make sure that it meets their needs and make sure that it's shaped in a way that it meets the needs of London?

How do we look at the logistics and the collection systems for where that facility's located, what do the collectors and the sorters need to make sure that they can, again, facilitate those factories? Do they need help with the type of technology that would be needed to make sure they're sending the right materials up? How do we make sure that the system is set up so that we understand how to join that all together? and advocating for that to be in the UK and in a site that is going to help facilitate London's needs as well as a huge supplier of that, the feedstock that would be needed for that kind of factory. I would see that more as London's role as a whole. That might not be [redacted], that could be other organizations doing that. Then you can help shape the policy for where that infrastructure is located.

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1: That's really interesting, thank you. The next two questions I'm going to move on to, you might have or you have talked already about some aspects of this. The first question is about barriers and the second question is about opportunities. Maybe just to draw out from what you've already said or something else, what do you think are the main barriers to achieving a system for circular synthetics?

2: Like you said, I have said some of them. Obviously the cost and is always a barrier and the fact that often designers are designing in a way that they're not necessarily thinking about the mix of materials that they're putting in or how easy it would be to get rid of different threads or zippers or anything like that. Not only the cost of new materials but that it's cheaper to send it abroad for reprocessing and not only just for reprocessing but also for resale.

We are seeing an issue that we have with boroughs, so with the local authorities, and their interest in collecting materials for recycling is that their recycling targets are by tonnage. Materials like textiles. Fashion materials are very light. They're not really that interested in collecting textiles because it's not the same as something like glass where you only need to collect a little bit and you've already got a much higher tonnage than you have for clothes. You don't look at the CO2 or the potential values, it's all about the tonnage. That's another issue.

1: Is there anything that's going to-- because that's not really anything to do with-- well, it's linked to, but that's an age-old problem. I was looking packaging 10 years ago and it's shocking that no one's thought of a solution to this problem because plastic is always lighter, isn't it?

That seems like a relatively separate, more straightforward policy instrument in a sense. That is you have to recycle this percentage of all of these types of-- It's more about material streams than tonnage.

2: Yes. In London, the mayor has said that by X date you must collect these six streams of materials. Which includes food, textiles, plastics. That is something that could be done. It's within the European legislation, but whether the rest of the UK will do it.

1: It's on the cards, it's coming.

2: Yes. Like you said, that is a good one. One of the things that boroughs find also is that the materials that they get in the curbside collection, because they're more degraded, the value that they get from them is not so high because quite rightly, we already have really good resale and charity collection systems in place. You tend to get the higher quality items going through different channels. Sorry. That's an aside. That's not really the question you asked me.

1: No, that's really interesting because, anyway, the very complex way that textiles are collected anyway is very interesting, the different streams. Also although we haven't looked at this, I talked to Hannah about this. The psychology behind where you actually take your clothes to or where you put different things and what people assume they should do with different types of clothing with different types of wear and all that kind of thing. It's really fascinating.

2: It's really interesting, and it mirrors for electronics as well. If people take electronics to the council, they're usually really, really crap.

1: Because they've taken everything else to the charity shop, or the charity shops, some of them don't take electronics, do they? It's a bit confusing.

2: Or you have to take the plug off the end, some of them, but a lot of them won't because it's quite expensive. If they can't resell it, the requirements for landfill, it's quite expensive, so it puts a lot of charities off. I'm sorry, that's nothing to do with--

1: No, no, it's all interesting because there's also the strategy behind the charities and it's relevant. That's great, thank you. In terms of opportunities, what do you think the biggest opportunities are here? Where we should be focusing our attention?

2: Like you said, there's some quick wins in terms of mandating curbside collections. I think we need to move quicker on extended producer responsibility, but that needs to be looked at very carefully in terms of the systems for collection that we already have in place. We can't just mirror somebody like France because they didn't have those systems set up in the first place. It would be useful to revisit some of the recommendations that we had from the EAC. Things like the tax and potentially, requirements for recycled content in textiles. That's not as easy as some of those other measures.

Then I think we really need to be looking at improving the infrastructure for recycling. The fact that we don't have, like you were saying, the big factories, and do we understand where the remanufacturers are and how that works? I don't understand it in London, and I think we need to do some work on that and what their requirements are.

1: Do you mean in terms of all the different types of processing and reprocessing? Or are you thinking of something that's specific?

2: I'm thinking of the remanufacturers, so the people that are taking used materials and reusing them and redesigning them locally.

1: Okay. You mean in terms of re-use, you're talking about small scale?

2: Yes. It would be in London. Obviously for the whole of the UK where you're looking at places further up North, then you'll need to understand that the factories need and how they can ensure that they're using the new textiles that are coming out. Where is that? If we're building the infrastructure to create the new recycled materials, what's the supply locally? Where are we going to send it in the UK? We need to understand that better. Improving the collection systems. That ties to making sure that we've got the right curbside collection. Also, are there ways? Do we need some funding in the short-term to help those companies out, so we don't see a complete collapse?

1: That's kind of like rescuing them a little bit.

2: Yes.

1: That leads on quite nicely to my next question, which you've already talked about a little bit. The question is about how COVID has affected the potential of a circular textiles.

2: We've seen a lot of stockpiling. We've heard about a lot of stockpiling. I'm sorry. I hadn't seen it with my own eyes. We're hearing from the textile recycling association of really big problems in terms of stockpiling. The charity's concern that they're running out of space. With this, you're getting that build-up, that glut of material, and that is going to mean that the value, the markets, there's not any value in it at the moment. The fact that we can't send

items abroad for resale at the moment, that's what's causing the stockpiling. As well as the fact that people are clearing out their cupboards.

The fact that the shops have been shut as well. That's another reason for the stockpiling because spring to summer clothing just didn't get sold. Some of the other challenges are where we're seeing a move to online shopping, which has increased. Will we go back to retail or will people stick with the online? As we've seen, the online retail that's been growing the most are people like boohoo.com where it's very cheap, fast fashion. You're getting those materials that will be coming through into the system which are not good quality. Which potentially you might not be able to reuse them. You might not be able to separate them properly to recycle them. Are they just going to end up getting burned?

What's some of the other changes that we've heard about? The issue with the fact that the costs of fossil fuel's going down. That will be another added complication. The fact that the brands or the producers are so pinched whereas they might have wanted to include recycled materials in their products, they may now be tempted to say no, just batten down the hatches. Produce it quick, produce it cheap and get it out there.

1: Are you feeling a bit like this is quite a long-term change or is this a short-term?

2: I think it's exacerbating changes that were happening already. I don't know about oil prices and how that will continue in the long-term. I would've thought they would pick up again as the world takes off again. That may not be such a long-term problem, but this is just speeding up and exacerbating most of the problems that were there all along. I don't think the stockpiling will-- I think that's a short-term issue because we've got a very unique set of circumstances. I think the pressure on the collectors and sorters is a much longer-term issue just because of how the system has been changing anyway and I think the move to online shopping would continue to increase anyway.

1: Brands are struggling I guess because they're not shifting stock. Would you engage with brands at all during this time? Would they be looking to discuss what their options are perhaps with some of those issues?

2: I don't know whether they're-- A lot of the people that we would talk to have been furloughed, so we're not talking-- It would be the people, I guess, in the sales positions who I don't have such direct access to, so they wouldn't be talking to us about that anyway. I'm just hoping that in a few month's time, actually, the mindset changes from survival mode to, "We're in a new world. We need to think of how we change our business models to fit this new world." I'm hoping that that's when the engagement will start. When they're not in complete firefighting mode. When they're not furloughed, when things have opened up a little bit more nationally and they can start to think, "What the hell-- this is probably going to happen again, how do we build in resilience?" I think it will be that resilience will be the angle that we can really drive home to them and talk to them about.

1: That's really interesting. Thank you. Sorry, I know we're really pressed for time now. I'm just going to post this link into the chat. If you just click on it, it should take you through to the Google slides, and then I'll just quickly take you through them. I'm not sure anyway, how relevant these will be from your perspective, but maybe there'll be a couple of things that come out.

2: Okay.

1: Do you see that?

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2: Yes.

1: These are two items of clothing which have been produced by our case study, which are a pair of running leggings, which are mostly polyester, may have a bit of elastane in, and a fleece, a polyester fleece with zips and some logo-ing on. We asked all of the 2s from their perspective, what the life cycle for these garments looks like. I don't know if there's anything that springs to mind from your point of view.

2: In terms of what would happen normally on this?

1: Yes, exactly. The next slide afterwards is what should be happening in the future, what you'd like to see, and this one is more about what's happening at the moment.

2: Yes, sure. I'm not sure I can add much to what other people will have said. It's that 'design, create, transport, sell, wear, dispose' cycle. Especially where if they've got lycra in them there's nothing you can really do apart from resale and then maybe shred them.

With the, "What could happen in the future?" I think that's potentially where obviously you introduce the recycling stream where you're actually taking them to a UK factory for recycling. We need the collection in place, the sorting in place to be a bit more specific in terms of making sure it can recognize the materials that can and can't be recycled, that include the polyester. The transport up to the recycling factories. Then, where's the demand coming from for that recycled thread that's coming through. Who's going to process it into the textile and then where's it going to be? Where are the manufacturers that are going to be using that recycled content?

Ideally, obviously that's all in the UK. Whether that's possible with the skills that we have, with the technology that we have, with the businesses that we have and the wages because obviously we need to pay people a decent living wage. Can we do that? Some of the work that UCL are looking at is the smart factories, the de-centralized factories that could look at-- Their work is looking at how you could potentially do that in the UK.

1: That's interesting. We interviewed [redacted]

2: Yes, it would be I don't think you would get the entire system in London because of the land costs. It's always an issue with London, it's the space, the demand for space, the logistics costs. I think you'd probably have to branch into a neighboring county for some of it and potentially do some of the other parts in London, unfortunately, like the collection, the sorting. Yes it's just the pressure on any kind of manufacturing in London is so huge.

1: Could we add something in here about what the policy might be for this future site, circular system?

2: Yes. I think you'd need innovation funding but policy which addresses innovation funding, so the government is committing finance to that to unlock that kind of-- to scale up the innovation, but also infrastructure funding. Also, you'd need skills. I think you'd need a skills agenda to make sure that you have in place the skills that are needed throughout that system. Understanding how to design with those kinds of mono-textiles in mind. Obviously it's not always going to work if you need the textile to perform certain functions. Also how you work, you're going to need manufacturing, the remanufacturing skills. Anyway, for the whole cycle you're going to need to address the skills and gaps that we find.

1: What is so interesting. I hadn't ever thought of it from the perspective of the skills point of view. It seems obvious now that you say it, that especially when you're thinking about a city

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like London, where you're always talking about employment, that reskilling and what that looks like from the lifecycle point of view could be really interesting to delve into.

2: We don't know enough about it, we hear hypothetically for that, for example, we talk about modular building as one of the ways of being more resource-efficient in London. You build parts of a house in a factory and then you move it onto site. It saves so much materials, so much labor, but it's very hard to get the people to work in those factories at the moment because they don't have the skills that are needed to be able to do the modular building. Something that you'd go, "Well, it's just the same, isn't it?" No, it's really not and also it's different working in a factory to working outside on a building site is completely different. If you're not addressing those concerns that people have and the way that they work and how that would need to change then it's going to be extremely difficult.

1: That's fascinating as well, because of this whole mass unemployment thing that's just happened. Trying to re-appropriate skills in a sense is quite an important thing for the future, isn't it?

2: Yes.

1: Thank you for that. That's something which we haven't picked up from other interviews so thank you, that's really useful. I don't want to keep you too much longer, because I know we're going over.

2: I've sorry I've got another meeting at half-past, but if there's additional points that we haven't covered you can always just email me and [crosstalk]--

1: Just really quickly. I think actually, some of the things that you've mentioned on our second slide can go on this. The third slide is like a roadmap. I think that I can probably reposition some of those things in terms of what needs to happen over the next 5 to 10 years. If there's anything that you haven't said that you'd like to quickly add.

2: I think the other points I've made about policy, if you're looking at EPR, it needs to make sure that it addresses not only the systems that are in place now but the systems that you'd want to set up. Like internal, local, circular, synthetics life cycles. You can't just put in place new policy that addresses the existing problems. It needs to be flexible enough and considerate of those, what you want to develop, and make sure that it's setting the right direction as well.

1: That's really interesting.

2: Otherwise, you just tie yourself into what's already there.

1: No, that's great. Then, I know we're really short on time but if you don't want to address this, on the fourth slide is the definitions that I sent you. I don't know if there's anything that already grabbed you, or if you want to look at it after the interview, that's fine as well.

2: I might have a look at it after if that's okay?

1: That's absolutely fine. No problem at all. I'm going to let you go then. Thank you so much. There's some really interesting things that have come out of there. Hopefully, if you don't mind me contacting you again, once we've got some kind of outcomes from the research.

2: No, that would be great. I'd love to hear how it's going and how it's all moving forward. If any of my ramblings-- If you had any more questions about any of the areas, then I'm sure I

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can do some further looking at what the situation is in London on various parts that-- We're intending to look at doing a mapping of not only the material flows in London, but also infrastructure in London and one of the sectors that I want us to include in that is textiles. Hopefully, we'll be doing a bit more in-depth research in the next year as well.

1: Perfect, that will be brilliant. Thank you. That's been really useful.

2: No worries.

1: Have a good rest of your day.

[END]