



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From the Rt Hon Dame Andrea Leadsom DBE MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health,
Start for Life and Primary Care

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Ms Tatiana Camacho
Secretary-General
The Imported Tobacco Products Advisory Council
By email to: [REDACTED]

10 April 2024

Dear Ms Camacho,

Thank you for your further correspondence of 7 March to Kemi Badenoch about tobacco products. As this is a health-related matter, your email has been forwarded to the Department of Health and Social Care.

As a party to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), the Government is committed to upholding its obligations, in particular those under Article 5.3. Article 5.3 of the FCTC requires that, *in setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law.*

The WHO Guidelines for Implementation of Article 5.3 FCTC also state that *Parties are strongly urged to implement measures beyond those recommended in these guidelines when adapting them to their specific circumstances.* In line with national law, the Government can therefore take further action to protect public health policy from the vested interests of the tobacco industry.

The Department has published guidance for engagement with the tobacco industry to support adherence to Article 5.3 across the UK Government which is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/protocol-for-engagement-with-stakeholders-with-links-to-the-tobacco-industry/guidance-for-government-engagement-with-the-tobacco-industry. This guidance applies across the tobacco industry. As a result, we will not be responding to the issues you have raised in your correspondence and will be publishing both this and your correspondence.

Tobacco is a uniquely harmful product - there is no safe level of smoking and no other consumer product kills two thirds of its users. Smoking cannot be part of a balanced lifestyle. That is why we must act to protect future generations.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

THE RT HON DAME ANDREA LEADSOM DBE MP