

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cigar-connoisseur.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2024 10:36 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Tobacco and Vapes Legislation

Dear [REDACTED],

I sent you the email below and would appreciate a reply, many thanks.

Best Regards

[REDACTED]

On behalf of AITS (Association of Independent Tobacco Specialists)

Mobile: [REDACTED]

On 13/08/2024 11:29, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED],

Your name was suggested to me by [REDACTED], Chartered Trading Standards Institute Lead Officer for Tobacco and Vaping, as the person to contact regarding the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. I believe this Bill is being taken up by the new government. If you are not the person to contact, my apologies, please can you direct me to the correct regarding this proposed legislation.

Introduction.

I have represented AITS for a number of years regarding the introduction of new legislation.

AITS (Association of Independent Tobacco Specialists) represents 80 Specialist Tobacconists in the UK. Our members are small independent shops spread throughout the UK. A specialist tobacconist is defined in the UK in the Tobacco Advertising and Promotions Act 2002 section 6 (3) (TAPA 2002) as the following:

‘A specialist tobacconist is a shop selling tobacco products by retail (whether or not it also sells other things) more than half of whose sales on the premises in question derive from the sale of cigars, snuff, pipe tobacco and smoking accessories.’

Therefore a majority of sales in our member’s shops do not include cigarettes or rolling tobacco, but are sales of other tobacco products (OTP) such as cigars, pipe tobacco and snuff.

Since a majority of the trade of our members is in OTP’s, we would point out the size of their trade is very small in comparison to the whole tobacco market in the UK.

Tobacco and Vapes Bill

As you know in the past there have been some dispensations for Other Tobacco Products (OTPs) which mainly included cigars, pipe tobacco and snuff in legislation. This started with TAPA 2002 and continued with the Display Ban etc. I wish to discuss with the possibility of having a similar dispensation in this Bill for the same reasons put forward in the past. Other Tobacco Products are

not bought by children as the vast majority of customers in our shops are over 26 years old for these products. This was the result of a survey I carried out in 2008 during discussions about the proposed display ban (See attached). The results of the survey was recorded in Hansard. Without a dispensation for OTPs our small independent shops will disappear from the high street adding to the already emptying town and city centres.

Specialist Tobacconists appreciate the dispensations we have in the current tobacco legislation, and ask for the dispensations to be extended to the Tobacco and Vapes Bill.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

On behalf of AITS (Association of Independent Tobacco Specialists)

Mobile: [REDACTED]