



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Ashley Dalton MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Public Health and Prevention*

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JJ Fox (St James's) Ltd

By email to: ■■■■■■■■■■

8 December 2025

Dear ■■■■■■■■■■,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 October to Baroness Merron about the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I appreciate your concerns.

As you will be aware, the Government is required, under Article 5.3 of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, to protect public health policy from the commercial and other vested interests of tobacco companies. We have addressed some of the points raised below for your information, but will be publishing both this and your correspondence.

The Government is committed to taking strong action to reduce the harms caused by tobacco and addiction. Smoking is the number one preventable cause of death, disability and ill health. It leads to around 80,000 deaths a year in the UK, including one in four of all cancer deaths in England. Combating smoking will reduce the burden on the taxpayer and on the economy. Smoking costs the economy £21.3billion a year. Smokers are less likely to be employed and more likely to be off sick.

On 5 November 2024, the Government introduced the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, which stands to be the most significant public health intervention in a generation, improving healthy life expectancy and reducing the number of lives lost to put us on track to a smoke-free UK. On 23 March, the Bill has had its Second Reading in the House of Lords, and Committee stage began on 27 October. We expect the Bill to complete its passage within this parliamentary session.

All tobacco products are included in scope of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. This reflects long-standing evidence that all tobacco products are harmful to health to all users and there is no safe level of tobacco consumption.

The study by Jackson and others provides data on exclusive use of non-cigarette tobacco use in England from 2013 to 2023, highlighting trends by age group. We have drawn on this study, alongside a broader range of evidence, to inform policy decisions on tobacco products. This includes a pre-published paper by Jackson and others that details a breakdown of use by tobacco type, evidence submitted by stakeholders throughout the

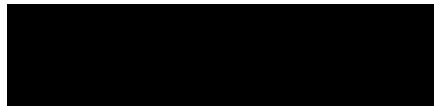
passage of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, and evidence submitted by stakeholders in the call for evidence on standardised packaging for all tobacco published in November 2024.

Our confidence in the observed upwards trend in non-cigarette product use among younger adults is supported by this study alongside other findings, such as from the International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project, which provides comparative data on tobacco use.

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill includes a range of regulation-making powers that the Government is statutorily obliged to consult on. Next year, we plan to launch a full public consultation to inform the policy proposals for many of the regulations that will follow the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. This will cover proposals such as restrictions on outdoor smoke-free and vape-free places, and rules on the display and packaging of products. We would encourage all interested parties to respond to those consultations.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Ashley Dalton.

ASHLEY DALTON