

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jbp.co.uk>

Cc: UKVIA <ukvia@jbp.co.uk>; Martin Dockrell <Martin.Dockrell@phe.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Respiratory condition reports in the USA

Dear [REDACTED],

Apologies for this rather delayed response. PHE hasn't issued a statement on this issue (I didn't in fact say when we spoke that we would be doing so, only that I expected we would be saying something about it in due course). However we prepared the following reactive statement for media, an edited version of which is included in the attached BMJ article:

Martin Dockrell, Head of Tobacco Control at PHE:

"A full investigation is not yet available but we've heard reports that most of these cases were linked to people using illicit vaping fluid bought on the streets or homemade, some containing cannabis products, like THC, or synthetic cannabinoids, like Spice.

"Unlike the US, all e-cigarette products in the UK are tightly regulated for quality and safety by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and they operate the Yellow Card Scheme, encouraging vapers to report any bad experiences.

"Our advice remains that e-cigarettes are a fraction of the risk of smoking, and using one makes it much more likely you'll quit successfully than relying on willpower alone. But it's important to use UK-regulated e-liquids and never risk vaping home-made or illicit e-liquids or adding substances, any of which could be harmful."

Regarding your suggestion of a meeting with PHE, the UK is a Party to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and all branches of national and local government are legally bound by its terms. This includes [Article 5.3](#), which requires Parties to protect public health policies with respect to tobacco control from the commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry. WHO FCTC guidelines recommend that interactions with tobacco companies are limited to those strictly necessary to enable effective regulation of the tobacco industry and tobacco products, and to maximise the transparency of those interactions that do take place. PHE's protocol for engagement with tobacco and nicotine producers is available [here](#).

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Health Improvement: Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco & Justice Division

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@jbp.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 06 September 2019 10:21  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@phe.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** UKVIA <ukvia@jbp.co.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Respiratory condition reports in the USA

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope you're well? I just wanted to follow-up with you on my email from last week as I hadn't heard anything further from you regarding my enquiry.

We're very happy to come and meet you to discuss PHE's work in this space if that's more convenient.

With best wishes

[REDACTED]

UKVIA

[REDACTED]  
0117 907 [REDACTED] | 07747 [REDACTED]

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 @Vaping\_Industry

34 Smith Square | Westminster | SW1P 3HL

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 August 2019 17:44  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@phe.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** UKVIA <ukvia@jbp.co.uk>  
**Subject:** Respiratory condition reports in the USA

Dear [REDACTED]

It was good to speak to you earlier, and thanks for your information that PHE's are planning to put out a statement in future on the respiratory conditions in the US that have allegedly been linked to vaping.

As soon as you're able to share any more information, please do drop [ukvia@jbp.co.uk](mailto:ukvia@jbp.co.uk) a line, and we can arrange a briefing etc. with our members.

As the largest vaping trade body in the UK and the only one which includes all parts of the vaping supply chain, the UKVIA is very happy to engage with PHE to provide any advice or guidance and share best practice too. We're more than happy to arrange a conversation about ways of doing that at a time that suits you.

Thanks again, and we look forward to hearing from you about the respiratory illness situation.

With best wishes



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