

Meeting with ASC 08 August 2022

- ACS explained that industry funding it receives is intended to facilitate engagement with individual retailers and does not support its policy development.
- Discussion focused on the Khan Review. ACS expressed an appreciation that they had been engaged in the development of the review but wanted to share some feedback. OHID officials clarified that the Khan Review is an independent review and does not represent government commitments.
- Firstly, the ACS expressed reservation around Javed Khan's recommendation to incrementally raising the age of sale. They worry that this is complicated and training staff to implement it would be very difficult. ACS are also concerned around staff potentially receiving violence and abuse from the public for having to enforce new age of sale rules.
- There was further discussion around the proposed licensing scheme. ASC view is that it does not add value and puts pressure to enforce new rules on resources which are already stretched. Further point was that it adds an administrative burden to retailers and will further drive illicit tobacco markets.
- Discussion moved to the recommendation on duty increases. ASC highlighted that further raising duties will drive the illicit market. ASC welcomed the proposal to end duty free sales.
- The rise in youth vaping and access to buying vapes in shops was discussed, alongside the issue of non-compliant vaping products being sold. OHID set out the recent data published by ASH, and also the inspections work carried out by CTSI.
- ACS raised their recent guidance to stores on how to comply with vaping regulations, and willingness to support Government efforts to stop underage vaping sales and the selling of non-compliant products.
- Finally, ASC expressed concerns around the illicit vape market, the need to control this, and the importance of making it easy to access clear information on which products are notified readily available to retailers.