



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1396
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/05219/24

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru

petitions@senedd.wales

09 May 2024

Dear Jack

Thank you for your further letter of 2 April addressed to Jane Bryant MS, Minister for Mental Health and Early Years regarding Petition P-06-1396 - Introduce a vape licence for dedicated vape shops. I will reply as this matter falls to my portfolio.

Like cigarettes, shisha can contain nicotine, tar, carbon monoxide and heavy metals such as arsenic and lead. These toxins place shisha smokers at risk of developing heart and circulatory disease, cancers, respiratory disease and respiratory infections, and nicotine addiction. Smoking shisha is not less harmful than smoking cigarettes.

In the previous response to the Petitions Committee about licensing it was stated we are committed to taking all measures necessary to address the devastating health impacts of tobacco in Wales and to do all we can to prevent young people from using vapes, this includes looking further at the evidence of other tobacco and nicotine products.

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill was laid before Parliament on 20 March 2024. The Bill will create the first smokefree generation by introducing measures to stop people from ever starting smoking and becoming addicted to tobacco products, as well as stopping vaping products from being deliberately targeted at children.

The core measures in the Bill will:

- a. Make it an offence to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 Jan 2009;
- b. Make it an offence to sell all vaping products (nicotine and non-nicotine) to anyone under 18;
- c. Provide powers to reduce the appeal and availability of vapes (nicotine and non-nicotine) to children;
- d. Strengthen enforcement activity to support implementation of the above measures and broadening the offences for which fixed penalty notices can be used.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

All tobacco products, like heated tobacco, cigars, and shisha are included in this legislation because all tobacco products are harmful and there is no safe level of tobacco consumption. Drawing the line at tobacco verses non-tobacco offers a clear distinction that regulators, businesses and the public will understand.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol