

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Sarah Murphy MS
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing
Welsh Government
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN
Deisebau@senedd.cymru
senedd.cymru/SeneddDeisebau
0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN
Petitions@senedd.wales
senedd.wales/SeneddPetitions
0300 200 6565

Copied to Russell George MS, Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

29 November 2024

Dear Minister,

Petition P-06-1396 Introduce a vape licence for dedicated vape shops

The Petitions Committee most recently considered the above petition, submitted by Claire Ford, at its 18 November meeting.

The Committee noted the forthcoming legislation on the UK Tobacco and Vapes Bill. In light of this, Members agreed to close the petition and encourage the petitioner to raise the matter with their MP and Senedd Members who will be scrutinising the Bill in detail.

It was however also agreed that I would write to you for confirmation in writing that the licensing of vape premises will be included in the Bill.

Following the meeting, the petitioner has contacted me again as they are unhappy with the Committee's decision to close the petition. There is no intention to revisit that decision, but the petitioner has asked that we forward her latest comments to you, along with those provided before the meeting. This is to ensure that you are fully aware of the exact nature of the petition and what the petitioner is asking for. I am happy to do so, and attach that correspondence for your attention as the lead Welsh Minister for the consent process for this UK Bill.

This letter is also being copied to the Health and Social Care Committee for awareness.

The full details of the Committee's consideration of the petition, including the correspondence and the actions agreed by the Committee can be found here:

<https://business.senedd.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=42851>

I would be grateful if you could send your response by e-mail to the clerking team at petitions@senedd.wales.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair

Enc: Email from petitioner Claire Ford, 19 November 2024

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

P-06-1396 Introduce a vape licence for dedicated vape shops– Correspondence from the petitioner to the Committee, 19 November 2024.

Hi

I watched the petition update. And am disappointed that the motion was to propose to close petition once confirmation has been given that licensing is being looked at .. we already know this and the licence will be for tobacco vape and herbal products from the information you have sent me.

This petition is for a stand alone licence for vape products to be sold in dedicated vape shops only.

Can you forward this information to the relevant person who is writing to Sarah Murphy about our petition and the licences.

The licence we petitioned for is not for general retailers who sell other products, but happen to sell relatively small amount of vapes as a draw to get customers in their shop.

It's to stop vapes being sold by general stores and all other sources altogether as they have no training or interest in helping people to stop smoking. They are selling cigarettes and vapes.

We wanted vape shops that are dedicated to vape shops to be trained smoking cessation practitioners, on the NCSCT register and to obtain a licence.

As specialist vape shops have no interest in selling tobacco or cigarettes (their actual job is to help people stop smoking) having the licences lumped together would make no sense. A tobacco licence should be a separate issue to a non tobacco product.

We also ask that the committee keep the petition open until all avenues have been exhausted. As the feedback from the last meeting was very positive in comparison to this meeting where all that was said was basically a motion to close it and saying you've done all you can do. I sent you certificates and lots of other information to consider and none of that was discussed or forwarded to Sarah Murphy.

We only recieved that bit of feedback from Sarah Murphy and it showed that she isn't fully aware of the exact nature of the petition and what we were asking. Can we ask if you could fully explain and reiterate what the petition is about to Sarah Murphy.

Claire Ford