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Clare Haughey MSP, Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament

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23 October 2023

Dear Clare,

Launch of 4-nation consultation on Smoke Free Generation

I am pleased to announce that on the 12 October a [4-nation consultation](#) was launched on proposals to tackle smoking across the UK and the growing issue of children and young people vaping, including the environmental impact of single-use vapes.

The consultation covers the following broad themes:

- **Creating a smokefree generation:** on smoking, the case for change is clear and the UK Government and devolved administrations are consulting on the smokefree generation policy and its scope to inform future legislation.
- **Tackling youth vaping:** while there is also significant evidence for action to tackle youth vaping, within each proposal the UK Government and devolved administrations are consulting on several options to ensure we take the most appropriate and impactful steps.
- **Enforcement:** the consultation also asks questions on the proposal to introduce new powers for local authorities in England and Wales to issue fixed penalty notices to enforce age of sale legislation of tobacco products and vapes.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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As you know we remain committed to a tobacco-free Scotland by 2034 and we welcome the opportunity to take part in this UK-wide consultation on creating a smoke-free generation.

Scotland has a range of world-leading tobacco control measures – we were the first country in the UK to introduce a ban on smoking in indoor public places in March 2006. As a result, smoking rates are at an all-time low.

We continue to be ambitious and have more work to do to create a tobacco free Scotland, and we welcome the opportunity to work across the 4-nations on these proposals to further restrict tobacco and vaping products across the UK despite our different approaches on areas such as smoking cessation.

We know more work needs to be done to meet our goal of a Tobacco-Free Scotland, lowering smoking rates in our communities to 5% or less by 2034. One person dies every 63 minutes from a tobacco related illness in Scotland – that is around 8,000 people per year. We need to take action to reduce this and coordinated action across the UK is important.

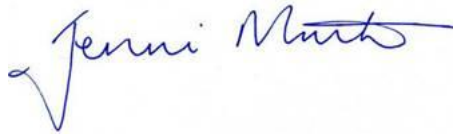
Our aim is to create a generation of young people who do not want to smoke, with all the health and economic benefits that follow.

The consultation also includes questions regarding single-use vapes that reflect our Programme for Government commitment to tackle the environmental impact of single use vapes, including consulting on a proposal to ban their sale and other appropriate measures. It asks if there should be a prohibition on the sale and supply of single use vapes, and whether there are other measures required address their environmental impact.

We are actively promoting the consultation and look forward to receiving the results to further support our tobacco control policies including our refreshed Tobacco Action Plan which will publish later this year.

I hope the Committee finds this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Jenni Minto MSP

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