

## **RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE TOBACCO AND VAPES BILL**

Dear Convener of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my views on the re-introduced UK Bill and, in particular, whether or not I think the Committee should recommend the Scottish Parliament approves the resulting LCM.

My view is that the Committee should recommend the Scottish Parliament approves the resulting LCM. My rationale is that the Tobacco and Vapes Bill is in line with WHO guidance on tobacco control which recommends implementing a suite of interventions to reduce the demand for tobacco ([WHO, 2024](#)).

You also asked for specific comments on areas where the new Bill differs from the previous version. I would highlight three areas where the new bill differs from the previous version.

Firstly, with regards to the extension of the tobacco retailer register. This is to be extended to encompass a tobacco business, a herbal smoking product business, a vaping product business and a nicotine product business. The bill requires that Scottish Ministers must make available for public inspection a list of premises, specifying for each of those premises each kind of registrable business carried on or proposed to be carried on there. Retailers will have a duty to notify the government of changes to their business, including if they are no-longer selling herbal smoking products, vaping products or nicotine products.

The second area relates to the introduction of new measures relating to the product Snus. The bill introduces a ban on the manufacture of snus, the sale of snus and possession of snus etc with intent to supply. Snus was not described in the original tobacco and vapes bill.

The third area relates to extending smoke-free spaces. The new bill will enable Scottish Ministers to make regulations designating certain premises which are not “wholly or substantially enclosed” as no-smoking premises. I will also give Scottish Ministers powers to create smoke-free places vape- and heated tobacco- free.

My view is that these are all positive developments that complement and extend the previous iteration of the bill.

Yours sincerely,

Garth Reid