



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

David McColgan
Chair
NCD Alliance Scotland

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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20 May 2024

Dear Mr McColgan,

Your letter, Friday, 17 May 2024

I am writing in response to the above-mentioned letter, in which you raise concerns about the decision of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to invite representatives of the Scottish Grocers' Federation and the UK Vaping Industry Association to give evidence to the Committee as part of its scrutiny of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill Legislative Consent Memorandum.

In fulfilling their scrutiny role effectively, I am sure you will recognise the importance of the Scottish Parliament and its committees having the freedom to request evidence from whichever organisations they deem appropriate and to carry out critical scrutiny of these organisations, irrespective of the particular policy position they may take.

Your letter makes reference to the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention of Tobacco Control "to which the UK is a signatory, and the Scottish Government has explicitly committed to upholding since 2013".

While I recognise the role this Framework may have in informing the development of public health policy by governments, I would respectfully argue that this is not relevant to the distinct and separate role of the Scottish Parliament in undertaking independent scrutiny of government policy.

In the interest of protecting the independent scrutiny role of the Scottish Parliament and its committees, I am therefore writing to decline your request to withdraw the

invitations we have extended to the Scottish Grocers' Federation and the UK Vaping Industry Association to give evidence at next week's meeting of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CHaughey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'H' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Clare Haughey MSP
Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee