

Ministear airson Slàinte Phoblach is Slàinte
Bhoireannach
Jenni Minto BPA

 **Scottish Government**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health
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Claire Haughey MSP
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Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament

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Our Reference:
Your Reference: Tobacco and Vapes Bill LCM

14 June 2024

Dear Claire,

Thank you for your letter of 4 June 2024 regarding the Tobacco and Vapes Bill LCM.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee for the work undertaken to date to scrutinise the Tobacco and Vapes Bill Legislative Consent Memorandum.

I am extremely disappointed that the Tobacco and Vapes Bill will not progress through UK Parliament at this time. We have worked closely with the UK and Devolved Governments on the development of this Bill to ensure that it reflects Scotland's public health ambitions.

Smoking is a huge burden on our NHS and social care services and contributes significantly to health inequalities – evidencing just how crucial this legislation is. We will continue to highlight the need for this essential and world-leading legislation – which is supported by all living past and present Chief Medical Officers across the UK. However, any future decisions on the UK-wide Bill will fall to the government which forms following the election and we stand ready to continue these discussions after 4 July 2024.

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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Despite this disappointing result, Scotland remains committed to our ambitious target of a tobacco-free Scotland by 2034, reducing smoking levels in our communities to 5% or less.

Our [Tobacco and Vaping Framework](#), launched in November 2023, sets out our roadmap to this goal and outlines the decisive action we will take to achieve it.

The Framework has three overarching themes – Product, People and Place.

- **People** is centred on the actions we can take to prevent uptake, and the support and education we can provide to help people stop smoking.
- **Product** focuses on what restrictions can be placed on tobacco and nicotine vapour products to further reduce use, or ensure vapes are used appropriately to support cessation.
- **Place** looks at the limitations we can place on how and where tobacco and NVPs products are sold, deterring use of the former and ensure appropriate use of the latter.

Included in the framework are the key actions across tobacco and vaping that will be undertaken in [our first 2 year implementation plan](#), which includes work to progress restrictions under the Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Act 2016, based on the outcome of our 2022 consultation on "[Further tightening the rules on advertising and promotion of vapes](#)".

There have been significant changes to both the legislative environment (including through the UK Bill which has been impacted by the UK Election) and types of nicotine products being promoted since these powers were introduced in the 2016 Act. I continue to work with my officials to consider the development of any new regulations made under the 2016 Act in this evolving context - taking account of any new legislative commitments that emerge from the new UK Government after 4 July - and will provide a further update in due course.

I would also like to highlight that progress on tackling vaping continues to progress in Scotland with regulations were laid in the Scottish Parliament on 10 June 2024 to ban the sale and supply of single-use vapes in Scotland. These regulations will come into force from 1 April 2025. We were the first government in the UK to commit to taking action on single use vapes and have fulfilled our 2023 Programme for Government commitment to consult on measures to tackle the environmental impact of single-use vapes.

We will continue to work closely across the 4-nations to progress action on tackling smoking and reducing youth vaping.

We remain absolutely committed to a tobacco-free Scotland by 2034 and will take all necessary steps to achieving our goal - we will be considering all options available to us in the period ahead and will provide an update to Parliament in due course.

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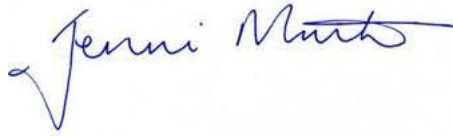
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I hope that you find this update helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenni Minto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Jenni Minto MSP

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