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Convener Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee
The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh
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22 November 2023

Dear Edward

Update on the Scottish Government's approach to tackling the environmental impacts of single-use vapes

Scotland was the first UK nation to commit to consulting on a proposed ban on single-use vapes. The 2023 Programme for Government committed to: "*Take action to reduce vaping among non-smokers and young people and to tackle the environmental impact of single-use vapes, including consulting on a proposal to ban their sale and other appropriate measures*".

I am writing to advise the Committee that officials from the Scottish Government and other devolved governments have been working with the UK Government on a joint consultation to gather views on how we proceed towards a tobacco-free Scotland by 2034. The consultation, which was published on 12 October, also addresses both the health and environmental impacts of vape use.

The consultation, which is being hosted on the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) website, opened on 12 October 2023 and will close at **11:59pm on 6 December 2023**. The consultation document can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-smokefree-generation-and-tackling-youth-vaping>

The accompanying press release is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-next-steps-to-create-smokefree-generation>

Scottish Government officials worked to ensure that the consultation includes questions on vaping and single-use vapes, highlights the recent research commissioned by the Scottish Government (carried out by Zero Waste Scotland) to examine the environmental impact of single-use vapes, and considers measures to address the environmental impact of vapes. The consultation chapter titled '*Restricting the supply and sale of disposable vaping*

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products' includes questions on prohibiting the sale of single-use vapes and other measures to limit their impact on the environment, meeting our Programme for Government commitment.

Following the conclusion of the consultation process, Scottish Government officials will work with counterparts across the four UK nations to assess the responses and determine the most appropriate measures to tackle the environmental impact of single-use vapes.

I trust that this update is helpful to the Committee and I will be in touch with further updates as appropriate.

Kind regards

LORNA SLATER

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