

# Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

## 34th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Tuesday, 14 November 2023

### Public health impact of vaping

#### Note by the clerk

#### Background

1. At its meeting on 24 October 2023, the Committee agreed to hold a one-off evidence session on vaping and Nicotine Vapour Products (NVPs), to gather information on the impact of these products on public health.
2. The terms 'vapes', 'e-cigarettes', Nicotine Vapour Products (NVPs), electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and electronic non-nicotine delivery systems (ENNDS) cover a diverse range of products but usually refer to battery powered devices that aerosolise a liquid for inhalation. These liquids may or may not contain nicotine. The liquid also typically contains additives, flavours and chemicals.
3. The [WHO Report on New and Emerging Products](#) illustrates the different type of e-cigarettes that are now available.
4. The Scottish Government outlined in its [Programme for Government 23-24](#) actions intended to reduce vaping among non-smokers and young people. This included consulting on a proposal to ban the sale of single-use vapes and other appropriate measures.
5. The Scottish Government also announced that they would publish a refreshed Tobacco Action Plan to help ensure children, young people and non-smokers do not use single-use vapes, as well as setting out their road map for Scotland to become tobacco-free by 2034.
6. Previous measures to regulate nicotine vapour products (NVPs) were undertaken in the Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Act 2016. This included a minimum purchase age of 18, a ban on proxy-purchasing, a requirement for retailers to join the register of tobacco and nicotine vapour products retailers, and a power to restrict or prohibit domestic advertising and promotions.
7. Due to the novel nature of the products and uncertainty around the long-term health effects of NVPs, the act was seen as employing a precautionary approach.

8. While the debate around the health effects of NVPs is still ongoing, the research has moved on since the act was passed and more is now known about their effects.
9. The UK Government has announced a [Tobacco and Vapes Bill](#) in the King's Speech in an attempt to mitigate the rise in vaping amongst young people. This includes proposals to restrict packaging and marketing of NVPs, and to raise the minimum age in which people can buy cigarettes and tobacco in England by one year every year.

## Today's meeting

1. At today's meeting, the Committee will take evidence from representatives of Public Health Scotland, anti-smoking charities, and academics with expertise on tobacco control and vaping.

**Clerks to the Committee**  
**9 November 2023**