

Scottish Government submission of 25 April 2023

PE1919/L: Ban the sale of high caffeine products to children for performance enhancement

I write in response to your email of 22 March 2023 on behalf of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee regarding Petition PE1919 which states the following:

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ban the sale of fast release caffeine gum to under 18s for performance enhancement due to risk of serious harm.

I note the further points raised by the Committee and offer the following response.

The Scottish Government intends to publish the analysis report of the consultation on ending the sale of energy drinks to children and young people and our policy response before the summer. We will write to the Committee when these have been published.

I also note your recommendation that the Scottish Government commission further research into the effects of fast release caffeine products on children and young people, particularly those participating in physical activity. We will consider this as part of our wider considerations for public health research and evidence requirements to support the Scottish Government's priority policy commitments and will also return to the Committee on this.

I hope the Committee finds this information helpful.

Health Improvement Division