

Scottish Government submission of 19 October 2023

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

Thank you for your email of the 21 September 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 Petitioner in their submission of 11 September and by the Committee on the 20 September. I offer the following response.

The Scottish Government has now published an [independent analysis report](#) of our consultation on ending the sale of energy drinks to children and young people and an [energy drinks evidence brief](#). Responses received to the consultation did not raise any issues associated with fast release caffeine gum.

In our previous letter to the Committee, we set out that the Scottish Government would consider commissioning research into the effects of fast release caffeine products on children and young people, particularly those participating in physical activity. We have now considered this as part of our wider considerations for public health research and evidence requirements to support our priority policy commitments. Due to committed budgets we will not be pursuing research on fast release caffeine products in 23/24 but we will keep this under review for future years.

I hope the Committee finds this information helpful.

Population Health Strategy and Improvement