

# Scottish Government submission of 3 November 2023

## PE2033/D: Introduce a full ban on disposable vapes

The Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee considered the above petition at its meeting on Wednesday 4 October 2023. At that meeting, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government to seek information on:

- When it expects to launch the consultation on the proposal to ban the sale of single-use vapes; and
- What consideration it has given to the suggestion by ASH Scotland that e-cigarettes should only be made available on prescription for people who wish to use them as an aid to smoking cessation.

1. On the consultation on a proposal to ban the sale of single-use vapes, Scotland was the first UK nation to commit to consulting on a proposed ban on single-use vapes, announced in the 2023 Programme for Government on 5 September. The commitment has been taken forward through the launch of the four-nations joint consultation 'Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping' launched on 12 October 2023, which includes questions on vaping and single-use vapes from an environmental perspective. It seeks views on a proposal to prohibit the supply and sale of single-use vapes, and views on whether any other measures are required to ensure policy is effective in improving environmental outcomes.
2. On making e-cigarettes prescription-only, the licensing of medicines, medical devices and vaccines is reserved to the UK Government and is undertaken on their behalf by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The MHRA determine whether a product is a medicine and if so, whether they are available only on prescription or restricted sale through pharmacies or for general sale (any retail outlet).
3. Currently there are no vapes licensed as medicines. The MHRA is encouraging companies to apply for marketing authorisations for vapes when intended to be used in the management of nicotine

addiction: [Guidance for licensing electronic cigarettes and other inhaled nicotine-containing products as medicines - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-licensing-electronic-cigarettes-and-other-inhaled-nicotine-containing-products-as-medicines).

4. To achieve a licence, products need to meet the standards of quality, safety, and efficacy expected of medicinal products. If successful, this would potentially allow products to be made available for prescription.
5. We will continue to work with cessation services in Scotland to ensure people can Quit their Way. Anyone wishing to stop smoking can access free support through the NHS stop smoking service Quit Your Way Scotland. The website offers expert advice and support to those seeking to quit tobacco products. Individuals can be directed to local support services and access to a range of medications and products to help them stop smoking.

**Tobacco & Gambling Unit**  
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