



Minister for Public Health and Women's Health
Jenni Minto MSP

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Clare Haughey MSP
Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
HSCS.committee@Parliament.Scot

Date: 25/03/2026

Dear Clare,

Tobacco and Vapes Bill Supplementary LCM Committee Appearance

Following a review the committee report in relation to the above evidence session I would like to clarify a response I provided to a question on snus. While the terms 'snus' and 'nicotine pouches' are often used interchangeably, the terms are technically different as is their treatment in the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. My answer reflected the position on nicotine pouches. In the Committee Report published on 18 March I note that there is an incorrect statement on the treatment of snus by the Bill. To clarify, snus has been banned across the EU and UK since 1992, and the Tobacco and Vapes Bill re-enacts and simplifies the ban on snus, ensuring legislation related to snus is in one place.

I attach a note for the Committee which sets out the difference between snus and nicotine pouches. I hope this note provides clarity on the position, and I am happy to provide further information if required.

We will continue to keep the committee informed as work to implement the Bill progresses post-Royal Assent.

Yours sincerely/Regards,

Jenni Minto MSP

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

<https://www.nhsinform.scot>



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Nicotine pouches and Snus

Nicotine Pouches

Nicotine pouches are small pouches of nicotine which are placed in the mouth, between the lip and the gum, and release nicotine into the bloodstream. They are usually sold in a small container consisting of approximately 20 pouches and come in a wide variety of different flavours. Nicotine pouches do not contain tobacco.

Regulation of Nicotine Pouches

In the UK, nicotine pouches are not currently captured by regulation of either tobacco or vapes and as such are only regulated under general consumer product safety regulations. This means that it is currently legal to sell them to children, there are no restrictions on nicotine content, and they can be widely marketed.

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill will introduce a range of restrictions (including age of sale, advertising, free distribution, retail register) for these products

Snus

Commonly nicotine pouches are incorrectly referred to as 'snus' or 'white snus'. However, Snus is a Swedish tobacco product consisting of a pouch filled with tobacco, also placed in the mouth.

Regulation of Snus

Snus has been banned across the EU and UK since 1992.

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill The Bill re-enacts and simplifies the ban on snus, ensuring legislation related to snus is in one place and is clear for retailers, manufacturers, enforcement agencies and other relevant parties. The Scottish Parliament approved this as part of legislative consent to the UK wide Tobacco and Vapes Bill on 29 May 2025.

The Bill also strengthens powers in relation to Snus – this will specifically allow customs officials to seize and hold snus for 48 hours for the

purpose of enforcement. As this relates to reserved matters, the Parliament's consent was not sought in relation to this provision.

Current usage of nicotine pouches among adults

The annual ASH/YouGov survey of smoking and vaping behaviour in Great Britain shows that currently around 1.1% of adults use nicotine pouches.

Current usage of nicotine pouches among children

Only a small percentage (3%) of 11–17-year-olds in Scotland reported ever using nicotine pouches in 2024 and 2025 (ASH Smokefree GB Youth Survey)

Nicotine pouches and smoking cessation

Nicotine pouches are not currently recommended by NICE for smoking cessation.

Health effects of nicotine pouches

As nicotine pouches are fairly new products, research is fairly limited and caution needs to be taken when interpreting the results as much of the existing research is funded by industry, including the tobacco industry. A [recent scoping review](#) of existing evidence found nicotine pouches have fewer harmful chemicals and are likely to be less toxic than cigarettes, but more independent studies are needed.

Anecdotally, effects reported of nicotine pouches include nausea, vomiting, headaches, and dizziness, especially when used by people not used to nicotine.

Source: ASH - [Nicotine pouches - ASH](#)