

Submitted to Implementing the prohibition of the sale and supply of single-use vapes in Scotland: your views

Submitted on 2024-05-09 11:07:02

Declaration of direct or indirect links to the tobacco industry

Do you have links to the tobacco industry? Please make a selection below.

No links

If you have links (direct/indirect) to the tobacco industry, please explain what those are below.:

Questions 1-2: Regulations, implementation and enforcement

1 Do you have any additional feedback on the updated Regulations?

Do you have any additional feedback on the updated Regulations?:

We welcome the regulations to prohibit the sale and supply of disposable vapes.

As the professional body for pharmacists, we will leave others to comment on the specifics around how the ban will be enforced regarding enforcement measures and legal penalties. However, the measures contained within the updated regulations appear appropriate.

2 Do you have any views on what will be required to implement the ban on single-use vapes, including on enforcement?

Do you have any views on what will be required to implement the ban on single-use vapes, including on enforcement? :

Education of children and young people will be important. It is likely to be the case that disposable vapes are currently circulated between young people. We need to ensure we support children and young people by making them aware of this legislation, and possible penalties by providing general education on vaping in advance of implementation and enforcement.

Questions 3-7: impact assessments

3 Do you have any comment or feedback on our interim Partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment?

Do you have any comment or feedback on our interim Partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)?:

We agree with the assessment that a ban on reusable vapes will benefit the environment, and that a ban also aligns with health objectives.

4 Do you have any comment or feedback on our interim Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Summary?

Do you have any comment or feedback on our interim Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Summary? :

We agree that it is important to ensure that the impact of a ban on those who experience socio-economic disadvantage is understood, and for people for whom switching to refillable vapes will be difficult either due to upfront cost of the product or ongoing cost of electricity. This will be of particular concern to public health if the single use vapes are being used as a smoking cessation tool.

5 Do you have any comment or feedback on our interim Equalities Impact Assessment Results?

Do you have any comment or feedback on our interim Equalities Impact Assessment Results?:

The assessment acknowledges that a ban is likely to disproportionately effect children due to current usage levels but concludes that as vapes are illegal for under 18's anyway, this proposal will be beneficial.

However, it is important that children and young people are given support when the ban is implemented to prevent any negative impacts such as switching to tobacco-based products or seeking to purchase disposable vapes through an underground economy, where manufacturing standards will not be monitored.

6 Do you have any comment or feedback on our Island Communities Impact Screening Assessment?

Do you have any comment or feedback on our Island Communities Impact Screening Assessment?:

7 Do you have any comment or feedback on our interim stage 2 Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment?

Do you have any comment or feedback on our interim stage 2 Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment? :

The assessment outlines that the ban will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of children and young people. However, it is acknowledged that for some children and young people, there may be potential negative impacts such as nicotine withdrawal symptoms. Children, young people and their families will need to be supported through this. People affected may turn to their teachers, community health workers, link workers and youth workers for support and it will be important to ensure that public health, social care and education teams are informed.

Questions 8-12: Strategic Environmental Assessment - Environmental Report

8 What are your views on the accuracy and scope of the information used to describe the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) environmental baseline set out in the Environmental Report?

What are your views on the accuracy and scope of the information used to describe the SEA environmental baseline set out in the Environmental Report?:

We agree with the assessment that a ban on reusable vapes will have a positive impact on the environment, whilst at the same time, improving human health.

9 What are your views on the reasonable alternatives set out in the Environmental Report?

What are your views on the reasonable alternatives set out in the Environmental Report?:

We are satisfied that reasonable alternatives have been considered in detail. Regarding the option of prescribing single use vapes, even if they were to cross the high bar of achieving an MHRA licence, pharmacists would likely feel uncomfortable prescribing a product where there is a lack of evidence base to underpin understanding of the long-term health impacts.

10 What are your views on the predicted environmental effects as set out in the Environmental Report?

What are your views on the predicted environmental effects as set out in the Environmental Report? :

We agree with the assessment that a ban on reusable vapes will have a positive impact on the environment.

11 What are your views on the findings of the Environmental Report and the proposals for mitigation and monitoring of the environmental effects?

What are your views on the findings of the SEA and the proposals for mitigation and monitoring of the environmental effects set out in the Environmental Report? :

As referenced in some of our answers above, we do agree that the illegal vape market is a threat to the objectives of the policy, both in terms of environmental impact and benefit to human health. The work Scottish Government does with trading standards once the legislation is implemented will be important to curb the effects of this.

12 Do you have any general comment or feedback on our Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report?

Do you have any general comment or feedback on our SEA Environmental Report? :

Questions 13-16: respondent links to organisations

13 Do you have links to an organisation that represents the interests of children and young people?

No

14 Do you live on a Scottish island community or have links to an organisation that represents Scottish island communities? Please make a choice below.

No

15 Do you have links to an organisation that represents people with protected characteristics?

No

16 Do you have links to an organisation that represents people who experience socio-economic disadvantage?

No

About you

What is your name?

Name:

Fiona McIntyre

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:
Royal Pharmaceutical Society Scotland

Further information about your organisation's response

Please add any additional context:

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

Do you consent to Scottish Government contacting you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

What is your email address?

Email:
Fiona.McIntyre@rpharms.com

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Very dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.: