

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-601  
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/01345/15

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
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7 May 2015

Dear William

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding petition P-04-601 - Proposed Ban on E-Cigarettes in Enclosed Public Spaces.

I note the comments the petitioner makes with regards to the positions taken by the organisations cited in the correspondence. In particular, the petitioner references the Scottish Government's approach to e-cigarettes. The Scottish Government's analysis of the responses to their recent consultation on 'Electronic Cigarettes and Strengthening Tobacco Control in Scotland' was published on 5 May, and can be found at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/05/7711>

The analysis paper reiterates their position that 'the Scottish Government currently has no plans to legislate and is open-minded on the question of whether to take action on this issue. The consultation paper invited views on whether intervention is required on the use of e-cigarettes in enclosed public spaces and sought suggestions for evidence to be considered when developing future policy in this area.'

The Scottish Government's response to this consultation analysis can be found at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/05/5856/downloads>

As far as public engagement goes, we understand that the round table session on e-cigarettes in the meeting of the Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee on 18 November 2014 was organised by the committee themselves who wanted a hearing on e-cigarettes. Whilst it fell during the consultation period the Scottish Government had no role in organising it and it is not classed as part of the formal consultation.

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*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

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In Wales, we have engaged with the vaping community on the White Paper proposal to restrict the use of e-cigarettes in public places. In addition to the formal consultation response process, a series of three public consultation events across Wales were held during the consultation period which provided an opportunity to discuss all the proposals contained in the White Paper. A range of organisations were also approached with an invitation to attend combined meetings specifically focussed on the tobacco, e-cigarettes and alcohol proposals in the White Paper. These included representatives from the local government sector, health organisations, universities, third sector organisations and industry representatives and meetings were held in Caernarfon and Swansea.

As you are aware, the petitioner met with my officials in January to discuss their concerns. My officials took the opportunity to explain the legislative process and so the petitioner is aware of the opportunities for continuing dialogue on this matter.

We continue to review the evidence on e-cigarettes as it emerges.

Finally, as the First Minister announced on 28 April the Public Health Bill is due to be presented to the National Assembly before summer recess.



**Mark Drakeford AC / AM**

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