

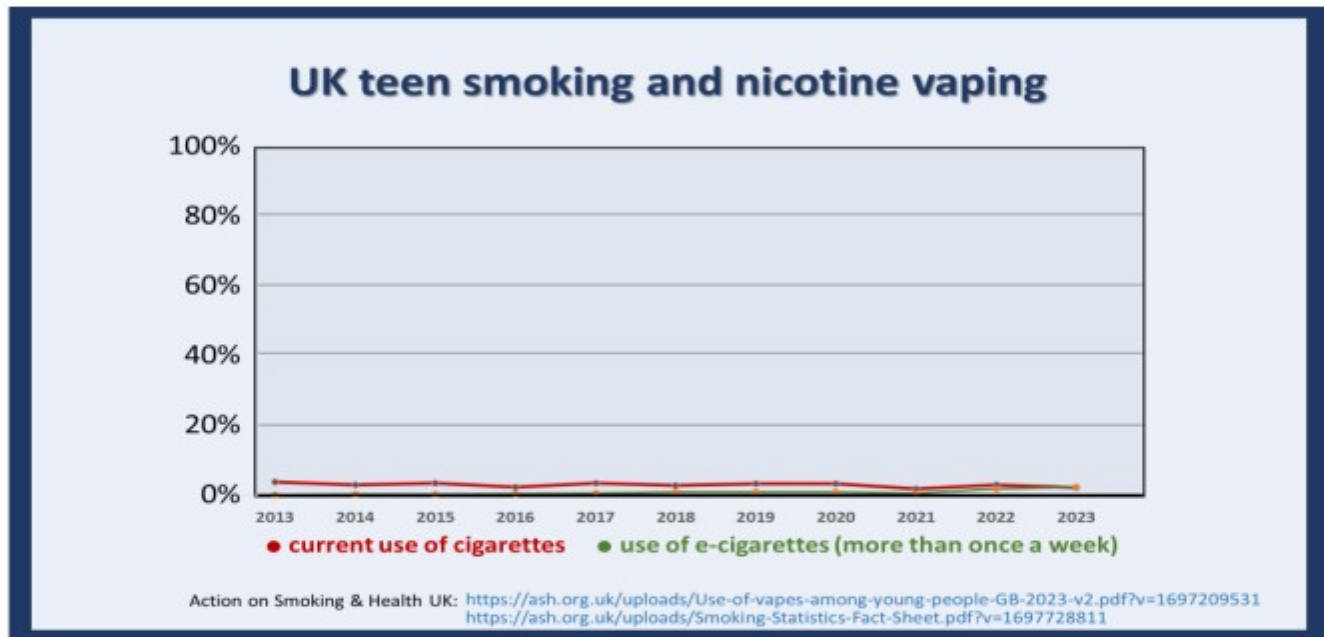


Richard A E D Pruen

✉ richard@pruen.co.uk

Rt Hon Victoria Atkins
Secretary of State for Health and
Social Care
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Subject: Youth vaping



Please see the above graph, so far regular use (greater than once a week) is not high and may be displacing cigarettes, cigarettes are the worlds most deadly consumer product. Infrequent and trial use (once in 30 days, or ever use) while undesirable does not lead to dependence, only those in the graph above can possibly be 'hooked', but not all will be.

I do not think young people should be encouraged to vape, but I would like to know your answer to one question, please.

If a young person is determined to use nicotine, would you advise them to smoke cigarettes instead of safer alternatives, and a what age should harm reduction products like vaping be made available.

I look forward to receiving your answer. Please feel free to ask others what they think should be done.

Personally I feel the situation in Sweden is close to the best balance, accepting some use of low risk Snus, in order to reduce the up-take of deadly smoking. This will take effect far faster than the generational tobacco ban, Sweden will be a non smoking nation this year, although nicotine use remains, they have the lowest cancer rate in Europe. The UK can easily and quickly achieve the same with vaping. I note also Sweden reduced the tax on Snus to accelerate uptake.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Pruen