



Rosanna O'Connor  
Director, Addictions and In-  
clusion  
Office for Health Improvement  
and Disparities

**Subject: COP 10 WHO FCTC**

Dear Rosanna O'Connor,

I am a consumer advocate for vaping, and do not use disposables beyond experimenting to see what they are like. I am also an engineer. I have worked in the vaping industry previously testing compliance with the standards for vaping products, and owned a now closed company BTC Battery Testing LTD (closed 2016). Currently I care for my mother who suffers vascular dementia, and as such volunteer my spare time to the cause of Tobacco Harm Reduction.

I believe that consumers should be present at the COP 10 meeting, it is consumers who have the most to gain from stopping the use of combustible tobacco, and the lived experience of trying to do so. Many millions have found a way to eliminate almost all the risk via THR products. The phrase 'Nothing about us without us' springs to mind. Why then are the public and press excluded. I would like to see the proceedings live streamed, so those effected can see what is being done. In no way could this effect the discussions, thus is reasonable transparency. I would like an answer regarding the possibility, please.

Many countries already found harm reduction useful, critical even. Be that low risk Snus (Sweden has the lowest cancer rate in Europe, and will be smoking free this year (>5%)). Vaping that the UK NHS finds almost 66% effective with support, as stated on their website. New Zealand has seen similar results, especially in native populations, reducing disparities. Japan has seen huge drops in cigarette sales due to reduced harm heated tobacco products.

Please see the letter from the Lancet from Robert Beaglehole and Ruth Bonita. They were both senior officials at WHO and are now at the University of Auckland. Robert was formerly Director of the Department of Chronic Disease and Health Promotion at WHO. Ruth was formerly the Director of Surveillance in the Noncommunicable Disease Cluster at WHO.

I wish to add my support for their recommendations, the article is attached (also link here [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(24\)00140-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(24)00140-5)) please make sure these points are discussed at the COP 10 meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Pruen

P.S Please ensure the representatives listed on the next page can discuss before the meeting and forward more widely if you agree with the sentiment.



Katherine Sands  
Tobacco Control Team Leader  
Department for Health and Social Care

Martin Dockrell  
Tobacco Control Programme Lead  
Department for Health and Social Care

Alison Walker  
Senior Tobacco Control Policy Lead  
Department of Health and Social Care

Esther Lawrence  
Deputy Head of Global Health  
UK Mission to the UN, Geneva

Please find attached a letter from

[THELANCET-D-24-00371] S0140-6736(24)00140-5