

Sent to The Prime Ministers office FAO The Prime Minister
No10 Downing Street (via official contact form) 14:30 on 16th Sept 2023

Subject: The continuing debate around banning disposable vaping and flavoured vaping.

This is continuing from my note of the 25th May 2023, I hear worrying noises around an outright ban on disposable vapes. As a consumer myself, who would surely be dead now without vaping, 15 years more smoking (I started 2008) would have seen me off, but not a user of disposables. Please however consider the following.

First; evidence from Australia where vaping is prescription only and prescriptions are hard to obtain (a de-facto ban), shows that illicit markets step in to fill demand, and have done so with the cheapest and least safe disposable devices. It is entirely probable bans here would result in more disposable vapes than less.

Second; There are disposable vapes designed for high security locations, such as prisons and mental health units, particularly secure ones. Please do not inadvertently ban a much safer than smoking option in such places, some of these people are suffering enough, and require our assistance.

Third; Prohibition is not effective, please see the situation in Australia again, the failed implementation of alcohol prohibition, and more than 6 decades of drug war. Not one of these things has reduced the supply of the substances trying to be controlled, and there is no reason to assume it will be effective for disposable or flavoured vaping.

Fourth; There are measures, some that I suggested to APPG Vaping on 28th Feb this year, the link is [safernicotine.wiki/mediawiki/index.php?Title=File:Email to appg vaping 28th Feb 2023.pdf](https://www.parliament.uk/media/wikimedia/index.php?Title=File:Email_to_appg_vaping_28th_Feb_2023.pdf) Should you wish to read it. These measures would significantly reduce the environmental impact (by a factor of 10), and place the legal devices better able to compete with illicit imports (these generally have more puffs than the UK rules currently allow), has the effect of increasing the initial cost of the device but not the cost per puff. By such changes to legal devices three main goals can be achieved

- 1) Compete out the illicit and illegal products that are not safety tested and approved.
- 2) Reduce the environmental cost, and quantity of vapes in need of recycling.
- 3) Reduce the affordability of such devices to young people particularly children.

Legal devices could then be mandated to contain information on refillable devices that are just as easy to use, cheaper and more environmentally responsible. Measures to drive consumers to more environmentally sound products should absolutely be considered, such as paying more initially and receiving a repayment on return for recycling. This should be done with care for unintended consequences.

I have kept this short as you are busy, but if there is any further information you would like please feel free to contact me by email richard@pruen.co.uk.

Thank you for your time.