



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Robbie Moore MP
**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for
Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577
E: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk
W: gov.uk/defra

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

Your ref: 1471420
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4 December 2023

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 27 September to the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) on behalf of your constituents about disposable vapes. Your email has been passed to Defra and I am replying as the Minister responsible for resource and waste policy.

On 12 October the Government launched a consultation on smoking and youth vaping. As part of this consultation, the UK Government, Scotland and Wales are considering restrictions on the sale and supply of disposable vape products (including non-nicotine vapes), including prohibiting the sale of these products. Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to disposable vapes following this consultation.

The consultation is being led by the DHSC and Defra has provided support in respect of the environmental impacts of disposable vape products. Any decisions to introduce new restrictions on disposable vapes, including on timing, will be announced following analysis of the response to the consultation.

Furthermore, our Environmental Improvement Plan sets out our plan to review rules for waste electricals this year. As part of this, we will consider what changes in legislation are needed to ensure the vaping sector foots the bill for the collection and treatment of their used products.

Under the existing Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations, householders can take unwanted electrical equipment to designated collection facilities (typically household waste recycling centres or civic amenity sites operated by local authorities) free of charge. The cost of the collection, transport and subsequent treatment and recycling of that waste is financed by producers through membership of a producer compliance scheme.

Consumers that wish to dispose of WEEE (such as e-cigarettes or vapes) should either take their items to their local authority household waste recycling centre or, if the consumer is making a like for like purchase and the retailer offers in-store take-back, the consumer should be able to deposit their WEEE in-store for onward treatment. Material Focus is a UK wide campaign making it easier for everyone to reuse and recycle unwanted electricals. They provide an electricals recycling locator, which shows the nearest location to recycle WEEE.

We are also aware that a growing number of local authorities are offering free collection of small WEEE items with their normal kerbside collection of recycling. Furthermore, retailers are required to offer in-store take-back for like for like products or join the approved Distributor Take-back Scheme (DTS).

The funds collected from retailer members of the DTS are used to support initiatives which are designed to contribute to increased collections for reuse and recycling of WEEE. Retailers who offer in-store take-back should arrange for the collected WEEE to be recycled at an approved authorised treatment facility. If a retailer is selling Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE), they have a legal responsibility to provide free written information to their customers on which takeback service they provide, and how consumers can reuse and recycle EEE.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



ROBBIE MOORE MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs