



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

15th October 2023

Dear Conithment,

RE: ELECRONIC CIGARETTES: DISPOSAL

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of vaping and its environmental impact. I have read your comments with interest.

I share your concerns about disposable e-cigarettes being littered in the streets of our towns and throughout the countryside. The scale of the waste of disposable vapes in the UK is shocking, with around five million disposable vapes thrown away every week. Many of the disposable vapes thrown away each week are not recycled properly and are instead littered or discarded with residual waste.

The Government has launched a public consultation on the Prime Minister's proposals to create the first smokefree generation and crack down on cheap and accessible disposable vapes. The consultation includes proposals to restrict child-friendly flavours and bright coloured packaging. These proposals will be of major benefit to the environment by tackling a particularly problematic waste stream. The consultation is open to anyone who wishes to make their views known. It is open until the 6th December 2023 and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-smokefree-generation-and-tackling-youth-vaping/creating-a-smokefree-generation-and-tackling-youth-vaping-your-views#how-to-respond>


Regarding the waste of vapes, I am aware that retailers that sell over £100,000 of electrical equipment per year are obliged to provide in-store takeback of electrical items, including vapes, under the *Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations*. Smaller businesses can choose to contribute funds to the distributor takeback scheme instead, to help ensure vapes are recycled correctly.

Under these regulations, producers of electrical and electronic equipment, including vapes, are required to take financial responsibility for the collection, and proper treatment of the products that they place on the market when those products become waste at household waste recycling centres, or are returned to retailers. Consumers that wish to dispose of their old vapes can take them to their local authority household waste recycling centre. I am informed that all vapes that are deposited at household waste and recycling centres will be collected and treated.

Finally, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has commissioned research which will better understand the market for, and environmental impacts of, disposable vapes and associated cost inputs. I will continue to follow this issue closely.



Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,


**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**