

Issued via email distribution*Tel: 03005550114**Website: www.publichealth.hscni.net***Our ref: Smokefree & Youth
Vaping Consultation**

20 November 2023

Dear Colleague,

Smokefree & Youth Vaping Consultation – Closing Date 6 Dec 2021

Smoking is the biggest entirely preventable cause of ill-health, disability, and death in the UK. No other consumer product kills up to two-thirds of its users and is responsible for around 2,200 deaths per year in Northern Ireland.

Smoking also causes harm throughout people's lives, not only for the smoker but for those around them.

Smoking is also a major cause of premature heart disease, stroke and heart failure, and increases the risk of dementia in the elderly. Smokers lose an average of 10 years of life expectancy, or around one year for every four smoking years.

We are drawing to your attention that a UK-wide public consultation – 'Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping: your views' is currently open and the Public Health Agency is encouraging everyone in Northern Ireland, of all ages, to have their views heard through submitting responses before the closing date. **The consultation runs until 6 December 2023 at 11:59pm.** We have enclosed the Public Health Agency's position statement on this consultation for your information and attention.

We are also asking for your help to ensure that this opportunity to have your say in a major public health consultation is prioritised and shared widely throughout your organisation and with your parents/carers, partners and stakeholders and that everyone is encouraged to respond.

Improving Your Health and Wellbeing

The consultation also proposes measures to tackle youth vaping and the increasing use amongst children and young people, by reducing the appeal, affordability and availability to children.

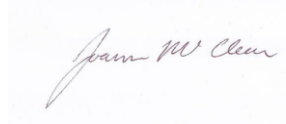
You can access and respond to the consultation at:

www.pha.site/smokefreeconsultation



IMPORTANT:	This consultation closes at 11.59pm on 6 December 2023.
REMEMBER:	To mark on your response that you are responding from Northern Ireland

Yours sincerely



Dr Joanne McClean
Director of Public Health

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