

## **Minutes from Policy and Regulatory Emergency Meeting**

**Date:** 24/02/2023

### **Attendees:**

Grahame Woods, Robin O'Kelly, Eyad A, Jeannie Cameron, Chris Aiken, Dan Marchant, Doug Mutter, Stephen Little, Khurram Jowiya, John Dunne, Duncan Cunningham, Victoria Hancock, Chris Kelly.

### **Welcome**

Robin O'Kelly welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Apologies**

Damien Bove was recorded as an apology.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

### **Discussion of Letter from BAT to John Dunne as Director General of the UKVIA**

John Dunne outlined that he had received a letter from David Waterfield, Area Director of BAT North West Europe Area regarding the reported overfilling of Elf Bar disposable e-cigarettes.

John outlined that the letter posed four questions to him and that he would go back to each of them in writing. However he provided the committee with a brief response to each question during which he highlighted that:

1. UKVIA is not working collaboratively with Elf Bar, but that he was not willing to issue another statement until an approved joint statement had first been released by MHRA following the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February.
2. That he has a personal network that is wider than the UKVIA, and that he engages in conversations with many organisations in capacities other than that of Director General of the UKVIA. Much of the information is confidential in nature and would not be appropriate to share publicly.
3. That as previously discussed, MHRA requested that the UKVIA not make any public statement regarding the Elf Bar overfills beyond our initial statement until they issued their statement first. MHRA also requested that the meeting be confidential and that he is unwilling to explain any further details until the MHRA statement is released.
4. That the UKVIA is a trade association and not the vape police. The regulator needs to play their part in ensuring that the vaping sector is compliant with regulations, and that it is not the place of the UKVIA to independently call out vaping firms whose practices they may not agree with.

### **Scottish Parliament Engagement**

Grahame Woods outlined that letters have been sent to the Lorna Slater as the Minister in charge of the urgent review into the environmental impact of disposable vapes (the review) and 36 other MSPs. These MSPs include party office holders, relevant select committee members and relevant cross party group members.

Following these efforts a meeting has been secured with the Scottish Labour Health Inequalities Shadow Minister Paul Sweeney in late March, and further engagement is underway.

JBP is also conducting stakeholder mapping of all journalists in Scotland who have an interest in this subject to provide them with a background briefing.

### **COP 10 Engagement**

Grahame informed the committee that a taskforce has been formed to lead the UKVIA's COP 10 engagement and that they are having their first meeting tomorrow.

He also told the committee that a roundtable is being hosted in Parliament on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April to discuss COP 10 and to engage relevant MPs.

### **10 Minute Rule Bill**

Grahame briefly outlined that the 10 Minute Rule Bill to ban disposable vapes is scheduled to appear again before the House of Commons for second reading on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March.

Before the bill is due to be presented, JBP is working to brief relevant MPs to vote against the bill and to ensure our key representatives are present should be appear on the order paper.

### **YAP Taskforce Policy Proposal**

Robin spoke about this policy proposal and said that it had been circulated to all members along with the meeting agenda.

As the proposal is rather long he asked the Committee to come back to him with any amendments by close of business of Friday 24 February.

*NB: This has been extended to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March since the meeting's conclusion to allow for additional comments from the committee.*

### **General Business**

Jeannie Cameron mentioned that the European Union has launched a consultation on the 'Evaluation of the legislative framework for tobacco control'. While this is an EU consultation representatives from foreign countries are able to respond to it and Brazil has done so already.

The consultation closes on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May and she recommended that the UKVIA prepare a submission.

### **Meeting Closure**

There being no further general business the meeting closed at 10:37am.