

Meeting Contact Report

Client: Policy and Regulatory Committee – UKVIA

Meeting: Thursday 5th October 2023

Attendees: John Dunne (UKVIA), Ben Walker (JBP), Grahame Woods (JBP), Chris Aikens (RELX), Robert Sidebottom (Arcus), Andrew Zaman (Juul), Dan Marchant (Vape Club), Doug Mutter (VPZ), Andrej Kuttruf (Evapo)

Apologies: Damien Bove (Adact), Jeannie Cameron (JCIC)

Minutes

Introduction

Grahame Woods welcomed attendees.

Government Youth Vaping Call for Evidence Update

Attendees discussed the Government's recent announcement on future vaping legislation. Grahame noted that the Prime Minister's speech did suggest that any potential ban on disposable vapes would likely not be put before Parliament but would instead be a Government decision.

Grahame continued that JBP would go through the consultation and build up a war-chest of evidence and arguments to use. He added that the Prime Minister's announcement was not as extensive as it was presumed to be. Grahame continued that it may be an idea to put together a 'taskforce' for this consultation response. Noted that Damien Bove has agreed to conduct some research on the environmental aspect of vapes for the consultation response.

Robert Sidebottom added that it is crucial to keep pointing out the correlation between the rise in vaping and the decline in smoking. John Dunne agreed.

Grahame mentioned there will almost certainly be some restrictions coming and this is likely to be related to packaging and where products can be displayed in stores.

Dan Marchant noted the value of conducting a survey amongst current vapers and smokers looking to quit regarding the importance of flavours for example, especially if a reputable polling firm is used.

Grahame, Robert and John noted the value of a consumer campaign. John did warn that many consumer groups do have tobacco links so the UKVIA would have to be careful here.

Grahame added he had put together a survey for Scotland on smoking cessation, continued that this could be expanded nationwide. Grahame to discuss this with Chris and John.

Grahame noted that JBP would put together a briefing on this next week.

Scottish Update

Grahame noted that JBP has put together a list of independent retailers north of the border as well as a list of constituencies in Scotland that have particularly high smoking prevalence. Added that it would be helpful if he and Doug could have a chat about this in the next couple of weeks.

UKVIA Forum update

Grahame mentioned that Forum planning is going well. He encouraged attendees to purchase their tickets.

John noted that Phil Jenkins from Trading Standards will be attending and may also speak.

Grahame added that the Minister for Health, Neil O'Brien suggested he may be able to attend Forum following John's meeting with him at the Conservative Party Conference.

Robert asked if he would be comparing at the Forum. John confirmed that he would for a part of the awards ceremony.

COP 10 Update

Grahame noted that COP 10 is next month. Mark Pawsey MP has written a note to the Government asking for some academics to join the UK's delegation. Added that the delegation is likely to take a broadly positive line on vaping.

Labour Party Engagement

Grahame mentioned that he and John have met with Mary Glendon MP who has asked some Parliamentary questions for the UKVIA. Added that she will attempt to organise a meeting between John and Preet Gill MP. Grahame, Ben, and John will be attending Labour Party Conference next week in Liverpool.

With no other business the meeting closed at 10:43.