

Meeting Contact Report

Client: Policy and Regulatory Committee – UKVIA

Meeting: Friday 17th November 2023

Attendees: Ben Walker (JBP), Grahame Woods (JBP), Chris Aikens (RELX), Dan Marchant (Vape Club), Doug Mutter (VPZ), Andrej Kuttruf (Evapo), Jason Tian (SMOORE)

Minutes

Introduction

Grahame Woods welcomed attendees.

Government's Youth Vaping Consultation

Grahame noted that work on the Youth Vaping consultation response is ongoing and that the first draft should be completed soon. This will be sent on to the taskforce and then the policy and regulatory committee for amends. The deadline for the response is in just under three weeks.

Grahame encouraged others to respond to the consultation themselves, if possible and noted that the UKVIA could help with this if needed. Added that it is important to make as much noise as possible. He made clear that the consultation and covering letter submitted by the UKVIA will be made public.

Chris Aitkens stressed the importance of the public relations campaign surrounding the consultation response.

Government and Opposition Reshuffles

Grahame noted that Shadow Public Health Minister, Preet Gill has asked for a briefing letter from the UKVIA and hopefully a meeting will come of this.

Grahame continued that the Government reshuffle is not the best news for the industry as Steve Barclay and Neil O'Brien have been replaced by less libertarian alternatives.

Chris noted that Andrea Leadsom, O'Brien's replacement, has previously been in favour of banning disposable vapes.

King's Speech

Grahame noted that the new tobacco bill was mentioned in the King's Speech. Continued that the engagement opportunity following the consultation and this bill will remain open for a number of months.

Upcoming Autumn Statement

Grahame noted that the Autumn Statement will be next week. Added that there have been rumours that there might be a vaping tax introduced in this, however this is not anticipated or expected at present.

COP 10

Grahame mentioned that COP 10 has been rescheduled to January due to civil unrest in Panama. Continued that the UK's stance should not change substantially before January.

Scottish Update

Grahame noted that the Scottish Government is doing its own work and research alongside the wider UK Government consultation. He continued that the Scottish Government's view is very firm and anti-vaping, mentioning that the Westminster consultation represents the best opportunity to influence Scottish policy.

With no other business the meeting closed at 10:17.