

Tobacco and Vapes Bill: Second reading

25 November 2024



Context: The APPG welcomes the introduction of a ban on disposable vapes

- Last week, Parliament passed a [statutory instrument](#) to prohibit the sale of disposable, vapes from 1st June 2025.
- The APPG has campaigned for such a ban for several years and we are pleased that the new Government brought forward this measure with cross-party support. The ban was originally proposed by the previous Conservative government.
- Material Focus estimate that [5 million vapes are thrown away each week](#). As well as a reckless use of critical minerals like lithium that can be used for renewable energy, they present a fire risk and contain hazardous substances that are dangerous to wildlife. The Marine Conservation Society have [highlighted](#) the increasing number of disposable vapes found during their beach cleans.
- Recycling of these materials is unlikely to provide a scalable solution. Initial recycling schemes have indicated [takeback of less than one per cent](#). Enough lithium was thrown away in disposable vapes in 2023 to [make 5,000 electric vehicles](#).
- The ban now needs to be properly enforced, and we await details of the proposed regime.

What more can the Government and the Tobacco and Vapes Bill do?

- Vapes remain a valuable aid for adults to stop smoking. But this does not apply to children who go straight to vaping and are otherwise banned from smoking. [The Bill includes welcome powers](#) to make the packaging, flavours and displays of vaping products less appealing to children and prevent giving out free samples without age verification.
- [2023 research](#) found one in nine children have experimented with vaping, a 50% increase on 2022, with 69% of these children using a disposable vape.
- Since its last iteration in the previous Parliament, it will additionally introduce a licensing scheme for retailers to sell tobacco, vapes and nicotine products in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This will help to tackle the issue of illicit sales.
- Re-fillable and re-chargeable vapes are undoubtedly a better use of precious resources than disposable vapes. However, challenges remain in ensuring that these vapes are also dealt with correctly at end-of-life. Research with local authorities found that over [700 fires in bin lorries and recycling centres](#) were caused by batteries. The Government should review batteries regulations to improve recyclability and ensure adequate infrastructure is in place for consumers and businesses.

Suggested interventions

- Will the Government create a new category specifically for vapes in the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013, as previously consulted upon?
- How will the Government ensure that re-usable vapes are able to be recycled at the end of their life? Will they review batteries regulations to improve circularity?
- How will the Government minimise the impact of disposable vapes on the environment and child health before the ban comes into force, including limiting the growth of disposable vape use?
- Will local government receive additional resources to ensure their trading standards officers are able to enforce the ban on disposable vapes?