

Antony Higginbotham MP  
Member of Parliament for Burnley



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Constituent,

**Re: Vaping Products**

Thank you for contacting me about vaping and e-cigarettes.

Whilst e-cigarettes are not risk free I do welcome evidence which indicates that they are considerably less harmful to health than cigarettes. And although it is undoubtedly a better option to give up completely, I do recognise the important part which they can play in helping smokers to quit.

This is in addition to current international peer-reviewed evidence which indicates that the risk to the health of bystanders from e-cigarette vapour is low, and is insufficient to justify the prohibition of vaping products.

Recent ONS figures show that around half of e-cigarette users vape as an aid to stop smoking and to put that into context, in 2017, over 50,000 smokers stopped smoking with a vaping product who would otherwise have carried on smoking.

The ban on smoking in enclosed public places is based on strong evidence of harm from exposure to second-hand smoke, and the health benefits of preventing that exposure. Given that no evidence of comparable harm from exposure or benefit from protection exists in relation to exposure to e-cigarettes, they are not covered by this same legislation. And this is an approach I support.

That said, I completely appreciate that the use of e-cigarettes in public places can be a nuisance, especially from the more powerful vaping products which produce large plumes of 'smoke'. That is why I am glad that Public Health England (PHE) has produced guidance for employers and organisations looking to introduce policies around e-cigarettes and vaping in public.

This guidance stipulates a number of considerations which it recommends be taken into account by employers and organisations when forming their policy on e-cigarettes. These include the fact that vaping can be a nuisance or distraction for people nearby, and that people with asthma and other respiratory conditions can be sensitive to a range of environmental irritants such as e-cigarette vapour.

I am not aware that there are any moves to prohibit vaping products but will keep a close eye on developments with the information above in mind.  
Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Higginbotham'.

**Antony Higginbotham MP**  
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