

# All Party Parliamentary Group for E-Cigarettes

Minutes for meeting on 14 March 2018, Committee Room 18, House of Commons

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In attendance:

**Sir Kevin Barron MP** (Acting Chair of the session)

**Mark Pawsey MP** (Chair of the APPG)

**Gareth Johnson MP** (Vice-Chair of the APPG)

**Mary Glendon MP**

**Adam Afriyie MP**

Witnesses:

**Jim Cathcart** – British Beer and Pub Association

**Dan Marchant** – United Kingdom Vaping Industry Association/Vape Club

**Robert Baugh** – UNISON/TUC

**Jessica Harding** – New Nicotine Alliance

Session opened 14.10

**Introduction by Sir Kevin Barron MP:**

- Welcomed the witnesses and provided apologies for the lateness of some APPG members due to the debate taking place in the Chamber.
- Made introductory remarks about how vaping was making a significant positive impact in reducing smoking, adding that though it *“was not quite a breath of fresh air, it had provided something of a revelation in harm-reduction.”*
- He emphasised that his role and interest in the group’s work was not *“to promote vaping but to promote vaping as a way to stop smoking.”*

## Introductions

**Dan Marchant (UKVIA):**

- Introduced his role as an employer, industry spokesman and vaper.
- Made points around second-hand vapour, and how it was different to second-hand cigarette smoke. He pointed out that with cigarettes 80% of second-hand smoke was *“sidestream”* (smoke coming from the lit cigarette in hand or in an ashtray) rather than exhaled smoke. He highlighted that you do not get this from vaping products.

**Jessica Harding (NNA):**

- Introduced her role and the NNA.
- Emphasised that the default position should be that vaping should be permitted unless there’s a specific reason why not.
- Highlighted that employers were getting bad advice on vaping through misleading web searches, through finding alarmist media headlines and from advice from organisations such as ACAS that did not fit with current Public Health England advice. ACAS advice for example encourages employers to consider e-cigarette workplace policy in light of it being used as an aid to stop smoking, it does however also emphasise that employers *“must also consider the effects on other members of staff*

*as the long-term effects of e-cigarettes are unknown.” The guidance adds “having e-cigarette vapours in the workplace may create an unpleasant environment.”*

**Jim Cathcart (BPPA):**

- Introduced the association and their representation of 20,000 pubs.
- Introduced the association’s view that it should be down to the individual business to decide its policy, however they were also interested in exploring the impact of vaping on the pub trade in more detail.

**Robert Baugh (UNISON, TUC)**

- Confirmed the TUC recognised the benefits of vaping as a smoking cessation aid, but have concerns around the possible side effects on vapers themselves and bystanders.
- Discussed how they would expect employers to provide separate facilities for vapers apart from tobacco smokers. Emphasised that vapers should be considerate of those who do not vape around them.

**Discussion**

**Dan Marchant:**

- Responding to Robert’s comments on second-hand vapour, he highlighted that there was already a lot of evidence on the minimal impact of second-hand vapour, and the chemical components within it.
- He mentioned research from the British Heart Foundation that found that a smoker costs an employer approximately £1800 per year in terms of smoking breaks. Dan added that one of the problems with treating vapers as smokers in terms of break policy is that it goes against the effectiveness of vaping delivery. Whilst smoking provides a powerful nicotine dose in the short space of a smoked cigarette, vaping instead delivered a much smaller dose of nicotine per inhalation. Therefore, for vaping to be effective as a smoking cessation aid, vapers were often advised to use the device “little and often” to maintain nicotine levels to avoid cravings. He emphasised that making vapers either go outside, or to another far removed space would negatively impact the effect of the vaping as a smoking cessation aid.

**Robert Baugh:**

- Raised how helpful the smoking ban had been in encouraging smokers to quit.
- Discussed the different office policies there often are around break areas (for coffee, food, etc), highlighting that it made sense to have a separate area for vapers. Talked through points about not having smelly foods eaten at desks, or carrying hot drinks around in some jobs, etc.
- Highlighted the importance of not exposing non-vapers to second-hand vape due to unknown potential for harmful effects and exposure to nicotine.

**Sir Kevin Barron MP:**

- Picking up on the nicotine point, he raised that the evidence suggested that nicotine was relatively harmless, that it was the chemicals in combusted tobacco that did harm.
- He posed a direct question to Jim Cathcart on whether pubs allowed vaping and in what number.

**Jim Cathcart:**

- Said the answer was “yes, and no.” Some larger chains allow vaping in their pubs whilst other chains do not. He added that some pubs allowed it in their pubs but only in designated areas.

**Sir Kevin Barron MP:**

- Discussed how some pubs do not have the outside space to cater for outside vaping, and how this might discourage vapers.

**Jim Cathcart:**

- Responded that it hadn’t been a debate within the association, but was something he was keen to explore further.

**Sir Kevin Barron MP:**

- Raised the analogy of policies around second-hand vapour being akin to the debate during the smoking ban around whether the focus was on the user or the staff on site who do not really have a choice of what to inhale.

**Mary Glendon MP**

- Asked whether there had been any research to see whether vaping had had an economic impact on pub trade. i.e. were more people going to pubs which allowed vaping, or fewer people.

**Jim Cathcart:**

- Said there was no research on that subject currently, but that it was something he would consider with the membership. He added that some pubs said it was better for clientele if no vaping was allowed, while others said the reverse.

**Mary Glendon MP:**

- Noted that anecdotally she had not been in any pubs which had the smoky atmosphere of when smoking was allowed compared with vaping being allowed.

**Jessica Harding:**

- Suggested that vaping is not being raised as an issue by landlords or customers because people do not really see it as a big issue in pubs. Suggesting that most people are relaxed about vaping going on around them. Also raised the possibility of ‘covert’ vaping, which is far easier to conduct than covert smoking.

**Robert Baugh:**

- Raised a concern that, as vaping becomes more mainstream, it could potentially attract non-smokers to vape.
- He highlighted that PHE’s view on vaping is not universally accepted across the NHS or the devolved administrations, mentioning Wales’ stance specifically.

**Sir Kevin Barron MP:**

- Highlighted that mental health trusts and prisons were taking an opening minded view towards vaping as a way to encourage people to reduce/stop smoking. It also meant, he suggested, they then did not have to manage the logistics of getting smokers off site to be able to smoke.

**Adam Afriyie MP:**

- Asked the panel whether there was any evidence that vaping stigma (i.e. negative views of the health implications, and perceptions around the amount of vapour and smell produced) put smokers off switching to the products.

**Dan Marchant:**

- Raised examples of people choosing one pub over another because it allowed them to vape.

**Adam Afriyie MP:**

- Asked whether the industry should consider researching the behavioural incentives to encourage smokers to switch to vaping.
- He raised whether the public where being overly sensitive to the vapour clouds and smells of vaping, assuming they were harmful. He suggested that better public education of the science on vaping may alleviate the alarmist reactions.

**Robert Baugh:**

- Did not agree that the public where being overly sensitive, highlighting the example that people don't like it when smelly foods are eaten in enclosed spaces such as a work place or train.

**Gareth Johnson MP:**

- Highlighted that the public perceptions of vaping are largely informed by stories in the media.
- He raised the question of whether the media needed to be "*more responsible in their coverage*" of vaping science.

**Robert Baugh:**

- Raised that there will always be public scepticism of industry-led research.

**Gareth Johnson MP:**

- On the subject of vaping in workplaces, he raised whether people may feel peer pressure to either be for or against vaping in the work place depending on their colleagues' preferences.

**Jessica Harding:**

- Suggested this would be a matter for HR to assess, and perhaps anonymous questionnaires could be used to gauge views in a workplace.

**Dan Marchant:**

- Highlighted that the important thing was to ensure that the employers where in possession of the facts around vaping before being asked for their views so they can make an informed judgement.

**Sir Kevin Barron MP:**

- Highlighted the ASH statistics that perceptions of vaping have been going backwards in recent years.

**Dan Marchant:**

- Provided a demonstration of the different product ranges, and their approximate vapour output.
- Added that many of the devices were adjustable and that vapourless liquids were available, therefore common sense could surely prevail in people managing the amount of vapour they produced so as not to disturb colleagues or bystanders.

**Mark Pawsey MP:**

- Raised analogy of taking a private phone call and when that was/was not appropriate to do being applicable to vaping, suggesting this is a common sense issue.

**Robert Baugh and Dan Marchant:**

- Had a discussion around the weight of science that was out there on vaping products and second-hand inhalation. In particular pointing towards CRUK, Royal College of Physicians research. Robert was sceptical of the amount of long-term research that had been conducted.

**Adam Afriyie MP:**

- Highlighted the precautionary principle, and how in this case it could cost lives as the harms of smoking were already known.

**Mark Pawsey MP:**

- Discussed how the science on vaping was largely focussed on the user itself rather than bystanders.

**Sir Kevin Barron MP:**

- Highlighted the work he had done with ASH and that they had found no evidence to date of significant youth uptake of vaping products.

**Robert Baugh:**

- Suggested that though there was little youth uptake now, as vaping increased and became more acceptable would not more people who did not smoke be attracted to it.

**Sir Kevin Barron MP:**

- Responded that the priority for now must be to encourage smokers to switch, rather than getting side-tracked by possible un-evidenced scenarios of vaping uptake later.

**Mary Glendon MP:**

- Highlighted vaping as a far more cost-effective option for smokers. And that without affordable alternatives they were being driven to dangerous illicit tobacco products.

**Session closed 15.00**