

RECEIVED 16 JUL 2010

From the Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP
Secretary of State for Health

DH Department
of Health

Your Ref: 01102090

PO00000518614

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 4850

The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1A 0AA

15 JUL 2010

Dear Tessa,

Thank you for your letter of 28 June enclosing an example of correspondence you have received from a number of your constituents about tobacco legislation.

We are committed to protecting children from the harms of smoking, and to supporting people who smoke to quit.

During the passage of the Health Bill in 2009, Parliament agreed to remove tobacco from sight in shops, meaning that shops will no longer be allowed to promote tobacco in enticing multi-coloured displays.

MPs also agreed to an amendment tabled by Ian McCartney MP to prohibit tobacco vending machines.

As you know, with over 80,000 deaths a year in England, smoking remains the biggest single cause of preventable deaths and the biggest single cause of health inequalities. We are currently considering how best to tackle this issue in the context of our focus on public health, and assessing our priorities given the challenges facing public sector finances. These considerations include the policy on sales from tobacco vending machines.

I hope this reply is helpful.



ANDREW LANSLEY CBE