

Addendum to The Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) (Wales) Regulations 2024: children's rights impact assessment

Background

This Addendum provides additional information to [The Environmental Protection \(Single-use Vapes\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2024: children's rights impact assessment](#) (SUV CRIA), published December 2024. A CRIA allows Welsh Ministers to comply with the due regard duty under section 1 of the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011. They help to embed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in our decision making.

Completing the SUV CRIA enabled officials to consider the impact to children and their rights in respect of the introduction of a ban on the supply of single-use vapes in Wales, which came into effect on 1 June. This addendum should be read in conjunction with the SUV CRIA and summarises the responses received from children and young people following additional engagement between July 2024 and May 2025. It also signposts children and young people to various 'help to quit vaping' information (Annex1).

Additional evidence

Children in Wales

In 2024, the Welsh Government created and shared an online consultation to gather responses from children and young people on proposals to ban problematic single-use plastic products, including single-use vapes.

[Children in Wales](#), the national umbrella body for organisations and individuals who work with children, young people and their families in Wales shared the consultation with Young Wales. Welsh Government funds Children in Wales to run Young Wales. Young Wales is a representative participation model that amplifies the voices of children and young people within policy making. Underpinned by the UNCRC and the Children and Young People's National Participation Standards, they aim to ensure young people have opportunities to participate and raise issues that are important to them; ensuring their voices are heard by decision makers, policy officers, Welsh Government officials and Ministers.

In September 2024, the Welsh Government received a Young Wales feedback report on our proposed bans on problematic single-use plastic products including single-use vapes. In total 16 young people aged between 11 and 17 took part in the consultation, their responses in relation to the ban on single-use vapes are summarised below.

Summary of responses

It was recognised by those responding that parents often did not have the right information available and/or the ability themselves to teach their children about behaving in an environmentally sustainable way. Therefore, it was felt that schools were the best place to do this. However, some suggested the subject could be taught in schools in a more interesting way and that there was a need for more choice of environmental topics in the curriculum. They also felt that schools did not always set a good example (providing adequate recycling facilities for example) and did not do enough to encourage young people to recycle.

Of the products outlined in the survey, banning single use vapes was considered to result in the greatest positive impact for the environment. When asked whether the ban would lead to an increase in taking up smoking of cigarettes instead there was a mixed response. When asked whether they knew about the support available to help quit vaping most were unaware of this. Schools were cited as needing to do more to educate young people on the harm of vaping, including sending information to parents.

Continued awareness raising in 2025

Using the youth friendly [animation](#) and infographic (Annex 2), commissioned from [Youth Friendly](#) (see SUV CRIA) the Welsh Government continued to raise young people's awareness of the bans between January and May 2025.

These materials were shared with children's representative groups, [Dysg newsletter](#), schools, local authorities, bodies representing parents, carers, disabled people and groups representing ethnic minority young people. The animation and infographic explained the negative impact single-use vapes have on the environment. The materials were also used by Swansea University's Education and Engagement Lead through their Legal Education Session on vaping. Links to the materials were also included in their Legal Education and Children's Rights in Schools' newsletter, which was sent to every secondary school in Wales.

The infographic also provided five questions, relating to the impact of the ban on smoking and vaping habits which children and young people could respond to if they wanted to share their views (Annex 3). . In total eight young people responded, their responses are summarised below.

Summary of responses

Seven respondents shared their views on the bans with three agreeing to the ban and four disagreeing. The later did so on grounds they felt bans on other types of smoking (e.g. menthol cigarettes etc.) had not been successful to reduce smoking.

When asked if they thought the ban on single-use vapes would lead to young people taking up smoking, three respondents thought it would and four either disagreed or did not know. Those who disagreed or were unsure felt young people would be more likely to buy reusable vapes instead or would continue vaping because of their flavours, design or general appeal, considering that young people will always be drawn to try smoking/ vaping and consuming alcohol. When asked if they were aware of the support available to young people who want to quit vaping, six were unaware and only two said they were.

When asked how young people should be informed on how to quit vaping, young people suggested adverts across all social media and media platforms would probably be effective. Posters and notices at bus stops, on trains and at train stations, in doctors' surgeries, dentists, pharmacies, hospitals, colleges, universities and in schools were also suggested. Two respondents noted that once young people were hooked on nicotine it was too late and, as with those who smoke cigarettes, awareness raising would not have any effect. When asked if there was anything else they would like to say about single-use vapes, one responded that they were bad for the environment, so banning them is an environmental initiative (which "is great") rather than a "saving young people from vaping" initiative.

Analysing the evidence and assessing the impact

The additional evidence received aligns with the initial assessment in the SUV CRIA, that the ban on single-use vapes will have both positive and negative impacts on children's rights, as defined by the UNCRC.

The main impacts of the policy on children's rights, summarised in the SUV CRIA, according to the relevant UNCRC articles and its Optional Protocols, are also unchanged.

A youth friendly version of the SUV CRIA and addendum will be published in 2025.

[Young People and Vaping Information for parents and carers](#)

[Information and Guidance on Vaping for Secondary-aged learners in Wales](#)

[Talk to Frank](#)

[Childline](#)

[Help Me Quit](#)

[NHS help to quit smoking/vaping](#)

Support for young people who may wish to quit vaping:

Call 0800 085 2219, Text HMQ to 80818 or visit www.helpmequit.wales.

Banning single-use vapes

The Welsh Government wants to protect the environment, Wales, and the planet. We've already taken action to prevent littering, but we want to do more!

We want to cut down on the damage that making and throwing away single-use vapes does to the environment, wildlife, and people's health. We also want to speed up the shift in customer behaviour towards re-usable and more environmentally friendly options.

From 1 June 2025 a new law will stop shops selling single-use vapes.



Single-use Vapes:

- can contain plastic
- have a battery that heats a liquid people breathe in
- come in bright colours and different flavours
- some may contain nicotine (all are banned whether they contain nicotine or not)
- **are bad for the environment!**



They break down to microplastics.



They're difficult to recycle so end up in a waste tip.



Some vape batteries catch fire when damaged or crushed.

From 1 June 2025:



Shops can't sell single-use vapes.



Businesses and people can't give away single-use vapes.

If they do, they'll be breaking the law and will get a fine or imprisonment.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Almost 5 million single-use vapes are thrown away a week. Banning them will make a big difference!!

What do you think?

Answer the questions:



ymateb.gov.wales/s/80T311



What do you think?

Questions

1. What do you think about the ban?
2. Do you think banning single-use vapes will lead to young people taking up smoking?
Yes No Don't know
Please provide a reason for your answer.
3. Are you aware of the support available to young people who want to quit vaping?
Yes No Don't know
4. How do we tell young people about quitting vaping?
5. Is there anything else you'd like to say about single-use vapes?
6. What other types of single-use products should the Welsh Government take action on to protect our environment?