



Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

Name of decision: Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 (Age of Sale Notices and Consequential Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2026

Purpose /aim of decision:

To consider the health impacts of the Regulations.

Rationale for not conducting a HIA:

- i.e. The proposed decision is not of a strategic nature about how the Welsh Ministers is to exercise their functions.

The Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 introduced a new age of sale for tobacco products across the UK. There is no safe age to smoke and so the policy aims to prevent future generations in Wales (and wider UK) from starting smoking in the first place. From 1 January 2027, it will be an offence to sell tobacco products (as well as herbal smoking products and cigarette papers) to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009. This replaces the previous age of sale of 18 years. In practice, this means that the age of sale will gradually rise. This policy aims to create a 'smoke-free generation', reducing tobacco use in the UK population over time.

The Regulations are not strategic in nature as they only relate to signage requirements to communicate the new age of sale requirements for tobacco products to consumers, and make necessary consequential amendments. The full impact of the Smokefree Generation policy which aims to reduce tobacco use in the UK population over time, was appraised in an [Impact Assessment](#) during the Bill process and was found to have a beneficial impact on health by reducing the number of people smoking and thereby reducing the [individual, societal and health system costs as a result of smoking](#).

Deputy Director Statement of Assurance

I hereby confirm that I, Ed Wilson, am satisfied that the proposed decision to which the assessment relates is not of a strategic nature about how to exercise the functions of the Welsh Ministers.