

Peter Maudsley
Chair
Peebles and District Community Council
By email:
Peter Maudsley Peter-mariner@hotmail.co.uk

Please ask for:

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

E-Mail:

Date:

David Robertson

DR/FC

David.Robertson@scotborders.gov.uk

April 2025

Dear Peter

Thank you for your letter dated 31 March 2025, expressing your Community Council's concerns regarding the advertising and sale of vape products and illegal tobacco products.

Please be informed that new legislation and guidance will come into force on 5 June 2025, resulting in a display ban similar to that already in place for tobacco products. This legislation will prevent shops from actively displaying and advertising these products in shop windows and other visible areas. Additionally, this will include a ban on single use vapes. At this time, the shop is not in violation of any Trading Standards legislation concerning shop window displays.

Regarding enforcement, the Scottish Borders Council Trading Standards Service has recently conducted several enforcement activities, including test purchase exercises using underage volunteers, joint exercises with Police Scotland and specialist tobacco detection dogs, as well as unannounced inspection visits. During these visits, no illegal tobacco products were found, and no tobacco was sold during the underage sales operation. A small number of non-compliant vapes were removed from sale during these visits.

We have further operations planned in the near future and will continue to act on complaints and intelligence received. However, we cannot disclose any further details as this may compromise our work in this area. I can assure you and members of the public that my officers are continuing to take appropriate action within the scope of the current legislation. It is vital that reports of sales of illegal tobacco or vapes are reported directly to Trading Standards, as they are the enforcing authority in these matters.

Regarding enforcement action already taken, Trading Standards follows the National Enforcement Policy when dealing with such matters. The seizure of the vapes in Peebles was an incident in line with the enforcement policy, and a warning was issued. We hope that the introduction of new powers in June will enable our officers to police this vital area more effectively. Additionally, Scottish Borders Trading Standards has worked closely with NHS Borders to develop a tobacco and vape toolkit, which will be launched in May of this year. This toolkit is

aimed at teenagers to address the growing concern around vaping and health issues associated with these products.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Robertson", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

DAVID ROBERTSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE