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Date: 18th April 2025
Your Ref:
Our Ref: 202504031

Mr Peter Maudsley
Community Council of Royal Burgh of
Peebles & District



Chief Inspector Stuart Fletcher
Local Area Commander
Scottish Borders
Galashiels Police Station
LothianScotBordersLACSUBorders@scotland.police.uk

Dear Mr Maudsley

Policing of illegal vapes and tobacco products

Thank you for your letter regarding the above subject and the shop premises in Peebles.

I understand the Community Council's concerns regarding items such as vapes being sold and marketed alongside confectionary products and how this may be perceived as being targeted at children. Through joint work with Trading Standards we have established that the business in Peebles is not in breach of any legislation regarding the way they display items for sale.

Change in legislation is primarily a matter for the Scottish Government and I see from your letter that you have written to MSPs regarding your concerns.

In relation to local enforcement, Trading Standards have primacy in the investigation and prosecution of legislation relating to the sale of vapes and tobacco and we continue to work in partnership with that agency via the local Community Officer, PC Gary Beaumont, who has visited the shop several times to speak to staff and carry out checks.

On a recent occasion Police and Trading Standards Officers carried out a joint visit to the shop premises. As you are aware, a quantity of vapes which were suspected to be illegal were seized by Trading Standards for further enquiry. No offences were detected in relation to the supply of tobacco during this visit.

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We will continue to work in partnership with Trading Standards and all information will be acted upon, including through the use of enforcement tactics.

Education on such matters is vital and both PC Viv Carsley (Peebles Cluster Schools Officer) and PC Gary Beaumont carry out talks within Schools and Youth Groups in relation to substance misuse including vapes.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fletcher', with a stylized, cursive script.

Stuart Fletcher

Chief Inspector

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