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HEA-MO-10861-2022

9th November 2022
‎
‎‎Dear Ms. Reilly,
‎

On behalf of the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly T.D., thank you for your recent correspondence concerning the agreed motion from South Dublin County Council on electronic cigarettes.

Electronic cigarettes remain relatively new products, with information still being collected about the long - term health effects of their use. In October 2020, the Health Research Board released the findings of an evidence review on questions around electronic cigarettes, which had been conducted at the request of the Minister.

While the review stated that more research was needed into many aspects of electronic cigarettes, the main findings were as follows:

* Electronic cigarettes are not harmless to users, but there is evidence that they are less harmful than tobacco cigarettes.
* Electronic cigarettes appear to be as effective as nicotine replacement therapies for assisting smoking cessation for an observed period of up to 6 months. Further study is required to determine their effectiveness over a longer period.
* There appears to be an association between the use of electronic cigarettes and subsequent smoking among adolescents.

The Department of Health continues to monitor research that is published on these products.

Currently, legislation is being developed by the Department that will prohibit the sale of electronic cigarettes by or to anyone under the age of 18. The Public Health (Tobacco and Nicotine Inhaling Products) Bill would also introduce a new licensing system for the retail sale of electronic cigarettes. Any retailer wishing to sell these products will be required to register their details in order to apply for a licence from the Environmental Health Service. It is intended that drafting will be completed by the end of this year, with the Bill enacted in 2023.

I hope that this information is of some assistance to you.

‎

‎Yours sincerely,

Fiona Conroy

Private Secretary to the Minister for Health