

Single Use Vaping Products Regulation Consultation

1 THE CONSULTATION

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) held a consultation on draft Regulations, to be made under the [Climate Change Act 2021](#), proposing to control the sale, supply, and distribution of single use vaping products in the course of a business, or the activities of a charity or non-profit organisation.

Under the [Climate Change Plan 2022-2027](#) and the [Single Use Plastic Reduction Plan for the Isle of Man Community](#), DEFA aims to reduce unnecessary single use items, and especially the use of plastics, where alternatives are available. Litter from single use vaping products has increased rapidly with their increased popularity, posing a risk to the environment, despite reusable products being readily available and affordable.

DEFA instigated a [public consultation](#) to gauge the views of stakeholders and the public regarding the introduction of the Regulations. The consultation was open for 6 weeks and closed on November 11th, 2024. It was hosted by the Isle of Man Government Consultation Hub. Several public bodies and specific stake holders were also emailed and invited to respond.

2 RESPONSES RECEIVED

A total of **544** responses were received. **Two** were duplicates. There were **538** responses via the online consultation portal and a further **6** responses received outside of this route. Of the respondents that answered the residency questions (**532**), **99.6%** were from the Isle of Man.

Respondents generally answered as individuals (**96%**). However, a small number of charities, public bodies and businesses also responded. One Trade Association responded.

Of the individuals responding, **60 (11.5%)** stated that they used disposable vapes.

i. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

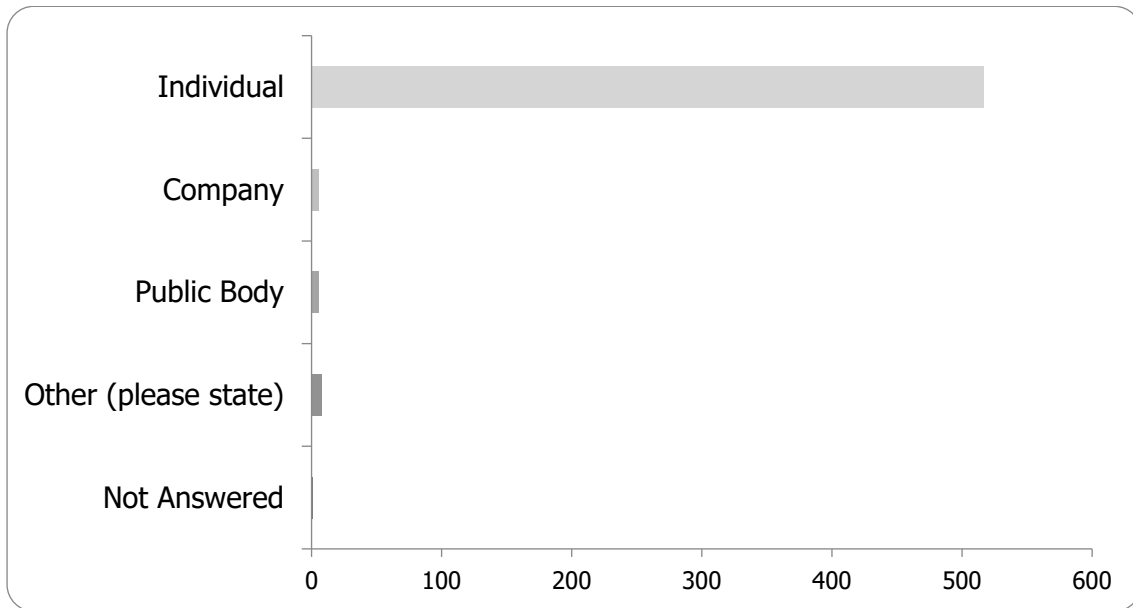
There were **538** responses to this part of the question.

ii. WHERE DO YOU NORMALLY RESIDE OR WHERE IS YOUR ORGANISATION BASED? [POSTCODE]

There were **532** responses to this part of the question. The majority of respondents were based on the Island.

iii. **WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE YOU? [INDIVIDUAL, COMPANY, PUBLIC BODY, OTHER, NOT ANSWERED]**

There were **537** responses to this part of the question.



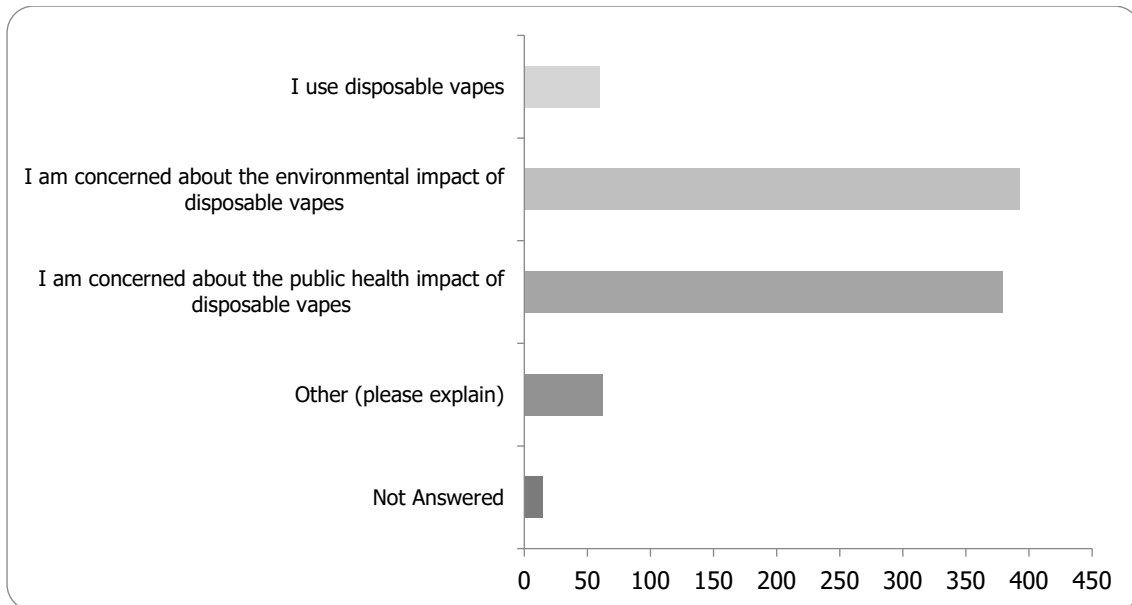
Option	Total	Percent
Individual	517	96.10%
Company	6	1.12%
Public Body	6	1.12%
Other (please state)	8	1.49%
Not Answered	1	0.19%

Comment Box ["Please State..."]:

There were **8** responses to this part of the question, **one** respondent was '*a smoking cessation adviser*', a further **two** responded as parents. **Four** Charities responded, and **one** person was responding as '*an individual and vape business owner*'.

iv. IF YOU ARE RESPONDING AS AN INDIVIDUAL, PLEASE SELECT WHICH DESCRIBES YOUR INTEREST IN DISPOSABLE VAPES (SELECT AS MANY AS APPLY):

There were **523** responses to this part of the question. It was possible to select more than one answer.



Option	Total	Percent
I use disposable vapes	60	11.15%
I am concerned about the environmental impact of disposable vapes	393	73.05%
I am concerned about the public health impact of disposable vapes	379	70.45%
Other (please explain)	62	11.52%
Not Answered	15	• 2.79%

Comment Box ["Please explain..."]:

There were **62** responses to this part of the question. Most individuals responding to this question were concern about the environmental impact (**73%**): *'utterly disgusted at how many are just thrown on the pavement', 'I'm concerned about hundreds of empty vapes on the pavements after every weekend',* or the public health impacts (**70%**): *'particularly the health of me and my family who are exposed to second hand vape by inconsiderate users'.* However, another respondent commented, *'I believe that the environmental impact of disposable vapes is so negligible as to not be worth bothering about'.*

Only **11%** of respondents were disposable vape users. **Two** commented that they were users of reusable vaping products. One answered as *'a previous user of disposable vapes'* (although supportive of a ban).

A lot of people expressed concern about youth vaping or use in schools (**32** comments), e.g. *'health of youth and children when vaping is becoming a bigger issue than smoking', 'huge concerns about the future of our children/teens using these products', 'I have a young relative that is hooked on vapes', 'concerned about kids using these', 'concerned about the negative impact they have on the teenage community (most of who are under 16) and their health. Also, the long term effects on their health which will become an unnecessary burden on our health services', 'teenagers becoming addicted to nicotine from disposable flavoured vapes', 'vapes should be only available to over 18year olds', 'I'm a parent who is worried that my youngest son will be caught up in the vape culture', 'I want our children to not be able to vape so easily', 'allure they offer in the marketing of such products has for younger people'.*

These matters were at the centre of debate around the [Vaping Products Act 2024](#) and this Act now prohibits the sale of vaping products to persons under the age of 18.

Seven responses referred to passive vaping: *'along with regular smokers, vape smoke makes me physically choke', 'concerned about the vile clouds I am forced to walk through', 'I am concerned about MY health when I have to inhale second hand vape smoke when people are vaping outside shops and in town. It should be banned in town', ', '.*

A significant minority specifically commented that their interest is against a ban or pro-choice (**11** comments), e.g. *'too much nanny state, people should choose themselves', ', 'government over-reach', 'freedom of choice', 'why a ban on this disposable product when there are so many others more in need of restriction', 'an example of government overreach that has dubious and minimal benefits, and that may discourage the use of a product that has clear public health benefits in discouraging the use of tobacco'.*

The Department notes respondents' views for and against a ban on vaping. However, the Regulations only concern a prohibition on disposable plastic vaping products, rather than a blanket prohibition on vaping. This is in order to mitigate the environmental effects caused by the creation and disposal of such plastic products rather than to introduce restrictions based on the public health aspects of vaping.

Two responses were against a ban and concerned about reducing the options to help tobacco smokers to stop: *'Concerned on social impact on people trying to quit using disposable vapes', 'concerned of public health impact of not having this option for ex-smokers'* and **one** stated that *'I would ban cigarettes before considering anything else'* (they were vociferously against a ban).

The Department notes that reusable vaping products would still be available if the Regulations were introduced.

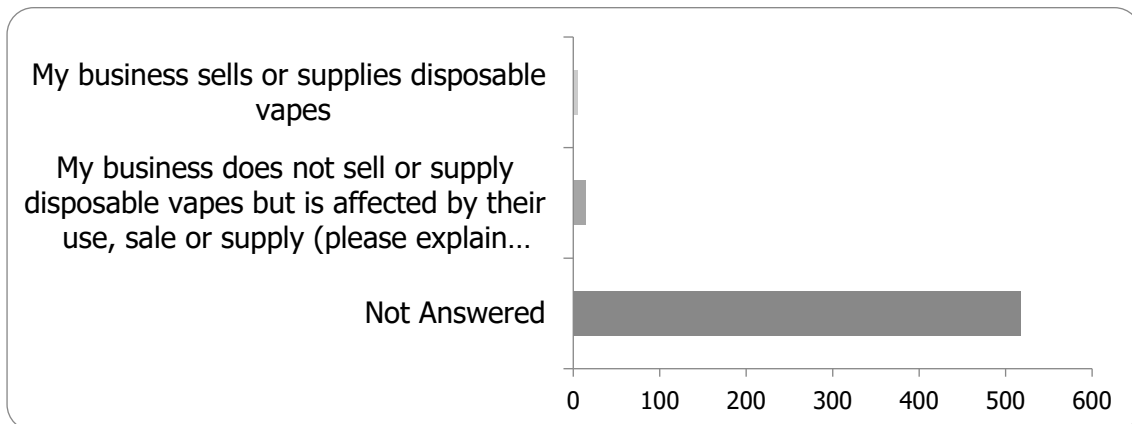
Three commented generally against vaping: *'I don't use a vape or like the idea of them', 'I think all vapes and cigarettes should be banned', 'think they are a scourge on society'.*

Two mentioned creating unregulated markets: *'grey imports of unknown content and strength'.*

Other individual comments included: *'concerned about the use of vapes in general, whilst less harmful than cigarettes they are frequently 'smoked' by younger generations'*, *'concerned about small children picking up disposable vapes and mouthing them'*, *'fire risk on disposal'*, *'concerned about the criminality aspect of disposable vapes'*, *'the financial burden'* (pro a ban).

V. IF YOU ARE RESPONDING AS A COMPANY, PLEASE SELECT WHICH DESCRIBES YOUR BUSINESS:

There were **20** responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
My business sells or supplies disposable vapes	5	0.93%
My business does not sell or supply disposable vapes but is affected by their use, sale or supply (please explain below)	15	2.79%
Not Answered	518	96.28%

Comment Box ["Please explain..."]:

There were **11** responses to this part of the question.

Suppliers and their representatives

The Independent British Vaping Trade Association (IBVTA) noted that: *'The IBVTA is the trade organisation for all responsible and ethical independent vape businesses and represents the UK's leading vape manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers. The IBVTA and its members are entirely independent from the tobacco industry.'*

Totally Wicked *'sell disposables as an easy option for adults to get off cigarettes'* and *'advise to move onto something more permanent'*. They believe that because the UK is banning single use vaping products, then *'the Isle of Man needs to do nothing as it'll be a knock on effect'*, whereas a ban would *'see a massive rise on online sales that you cannot control'*. They also noted that *'at Totally Wicked we provide a recycling service from our franchise in UK who picked vapes up for recycling. Buying disposable vapes is not a risk to public health unless they are fake! Buying reputable brands is only like buying reusable'*.

Several businesses that supply disposable vaping products were concerned that if the Island bans disposable vaping products, their customers may choose to buy disposable vaping products from the internet instead.

The Department notes that the sale and supply of disposable vaping products was banned in the UK from 1 June 2025, which further restricts the supply chain, though not preventing importation from elsewhere.

Two responses from individuals noted that their businesses supplied disposable vaping products. In addition, one of the respondents that did not answer the individual/business question mentioned that they *'have clients who sell them'*.

Of the other businesses that stated that their business does not sell/supply, but is affected by them, several mentioned littering as an issue around their premises or more generally: *'People leave disposable vapes on the street outside the business'*.

Charities

The New Nicotine Alliance was the only responding charity against the ban, stating that although *'it is good to see that there are proposed exemptions for prisoners...people with brain injury, learning disabilities, mental ill health, dexterity issues, and sight loss should also be considered'*, suggesting that *'the more forward-looking stop smoking services regularly recommend smokers opt for a single use vape both as a cost-efficient entry-level product to help them quit'*. They suggested that *'it would also affect older would-be quitters and those with disabilities, who say they find disposables easier to manage, without the added complication of filling a tank and changing coils'*.

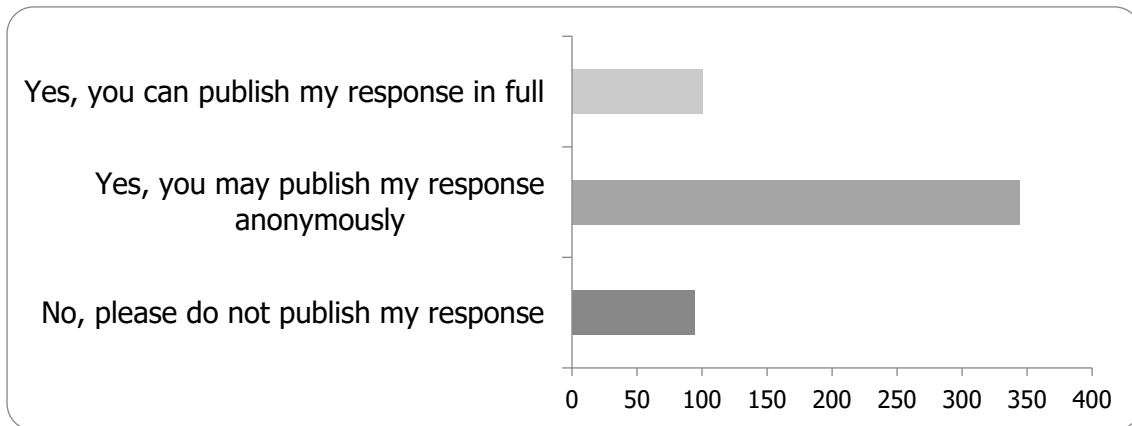
The New Nicotine Alliance also suggested that the *'risk of children turning to cigarettes instead of vapes is by no means trivial. Smoking has been assessed to be far more addictive than vaping by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities [in the UK] and is far more harmful than vaping. Considering Action and Smoking and Health consider youth use of vapes to be largely experimental, it would only take a modest proportion of youth users of vape products to start smoking instead to create a very serious public health issue. It is known that half of all people who take up smoking in adolescence and continue into adulthood die as a consequence from smoking-related diseases. This should take precedence over environmental concerns which can be effectively managed without resorting to the blunt instrument of a ban, with all the negative consequences that will entail'*.

Public Bodies

Several public bodies were consulted on the Regulations. The Department for Enterprise, the Department of Home Affairs, the General Registry, Public Health and the Office of Fair Trading provided a response. Braddan Parish Commissioners agreed with the proposal to introduce legislation and did not consider the need for further exemptions. They felt that 'pod' and 'paper' style vaping product should be included as well, commenting that *'vapes should be banned and only issued as a means to stop smoking. They are addictive and should be classed as prescription only medicine.'*

vi. MAY WE PUBLISH YOUR RESPONSE?

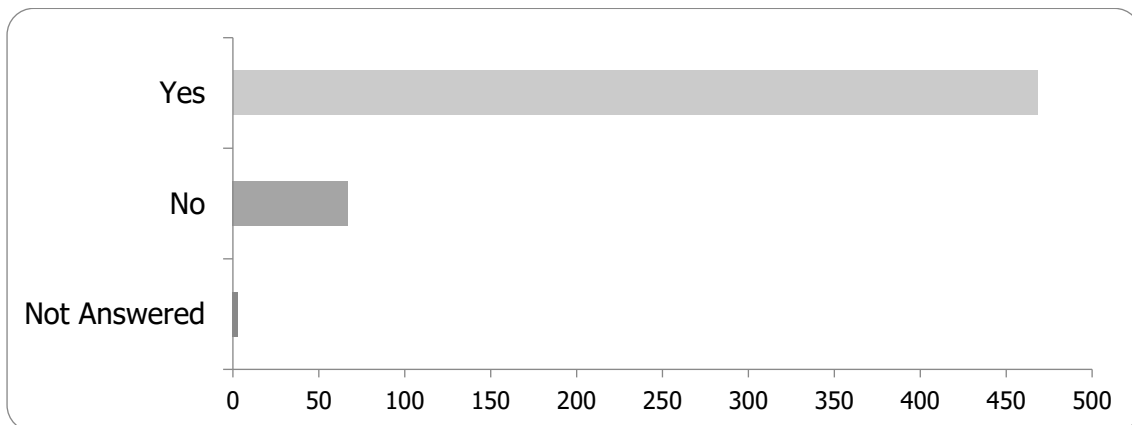
There were **538** responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Yes, you can publish my response in full	100	18.59%
Yes, you may publish my response anonymously	344	63.94%
No, please do not publish my response	94	17.47%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

vii. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF REGULATIONS PROHIBITING THE SALE, SUPPLY, AND DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE USE VAPES CONTAINING PLASTIC? [YES/NO]

There were **535** responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	468	86.99%
No	67	12.45%
Not Answered	3	0.56%

Comment Box ["Explain your answer..."]:

There were **341** responses to this part of the question.

Overall, c.**87%** of the respondents who answered this question agreed with the introduction of regulations prohibiting the sale, supply and distribution of single use vaping products containing plastic.

Individuals

Thirty two comments mentioned litter, for example: *'The impact on the environment is huge and they are currently not being disposed of appropriately by consumers', 'They are a blight on the environment, and with products available which are reusable these should be the only product available for purchase', 'The waste from disposable vapes is horrendous. I am a current user of them and it is a shame to see so many discarded. Recycling them should be made easier however that would not offer a perfect fix as most people are too lazy to make the effort. I have moved on to the pod version of elf bar and lost mary, these should be more widely available on island shops and a recycling scheme introduced for the pods'.*

There were **six** responses that commented on the risks associated with lithium batteries, and a further **three** responses concerned with the sustainability of the resources used i.e. *'The current environmental impact and use of resources on these single use plastics metals and batteries is just ridiculous and should never have been allowed. Further to this is the careless attitude of a number of the consumers who discard the packaging and vapes themselves on the footpaths around peel endlessly. These cannot be allowed to continue (and we should be pursuing littering).'*, *'There is already too much much [SIC] waste in the world, 'It is so wasteful.*

Charities

All of the environmental charities that responded agreed with the introduction of the regulations, (that is The Green Trust, Isle of Man Friends of the Earth [IOM FoE], and Manx Wildlife Trust [MWT]). Manx Wildlife Trust commented that discarded vape cartridges *'have rapidly become an omnipresent litter item across the whole Isle of Man, especially in our precious coastal environment'.*

The New Nicotine alliance, disagreed, stating: *'Banning single-use products may have the unintended consequence of driving users of these products back to smoking if their preferred devices weren't available. This has been identified in the impact assessment for the UK's disposable vapes ban, which states that 29% of current vapers will either revert or re-lapse to smoking tobacco. It describes this as leading to higher cigarette sales and to what it terms 'health disbenefits'. Banning or restricting products which are proven to help people quit smoking should be avoided when there are far better solutions to minimise the environmental effect of vaping products.*

'Although the issue of environmental damage of vapes has been somewhat exaggerated, non-recycling of vaping products is a concern to be addressed. It would be better tackled by tightening regulations on the recycling of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).' Note, Totally Wicked IoM has been operating a recycling scheme for some time already, at their shop.

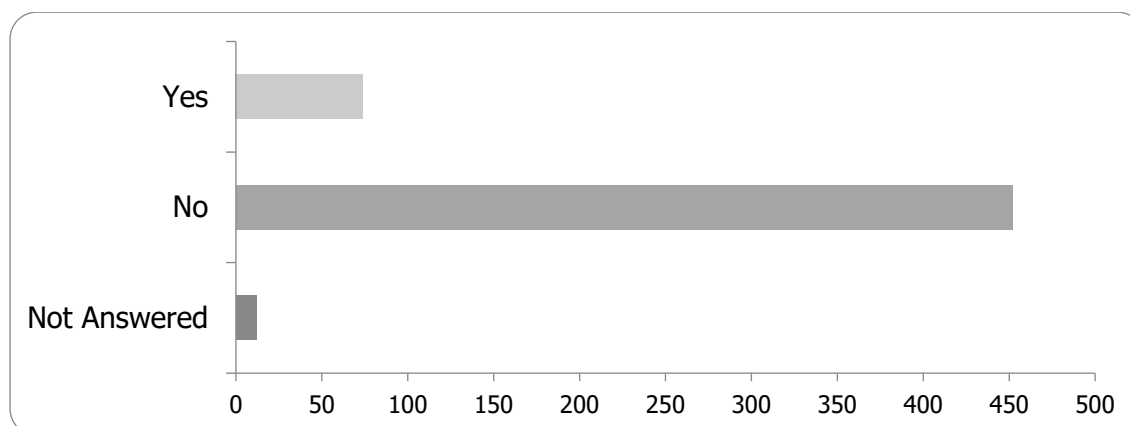
The New Nicotine Alliance continued, 'The proposals are also very likely to further increase the illicit market. We hear from many consumers that they would use illicit products if they could not access regulated products. It is important that this is recognised as a problem which can be fixed by improvements in regulations on vape businesses, an increase in public education, and more effective recycling schemes, rather than kneejerk bans on devices which offer significant public health opportunities.' However, a smoking cessation advisor agreed with introducing regulations, stating that there was a 'Wide range of social, health, financial trading and environmental issues covered.'

Public Bodies

The public bodies who answered this question, also agreed with regulating single use vaping products with comments as follows: 'to reduce plastic litter and also as a health issue as there have obviously been no long term studies of the effects of vaping', 'The introduction of these controls should accordingly help reduce the availability of vaping products to persons under the age of 18. This will likely bring benefits to their health-in the short-term, from reduced levels of nicotine addiction and associated addictive behaviours; and in the long-term, from reduced levels of possible damage to lung-tissue, which is particularly susceptible to damage in this age range', 'Regulations are consistent with the Climate Change Legislation and in line with the Government's introduction of banning single use plastics'.

- viii. **ARE THERE ANY OTHER EXEMPTIONS (IN ADDITION TO THAT FOR PRISONS AND OTHER PLACES OF DETENTION), WHICH YOU THINK SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE REGULATIONS E.G. OTHER TYPES OF BUSINESS OR CHARITY THAT SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO SUPPLY DISPOSABLE VAPING PRODUCTS, OR DISPOSABLE PAPER VAPES CONTAINING A SMALL AMOUNT OF PLASTIC? [YES/NO]**

There were **526** responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	74	13.75%
No	452	84.01%
Not Answered	12	2.23%

Comments Box ["Explain your answer..."]:

There were **217** responses to this part of the question.

The most common concern was that exemptions—even well-intentioned—would weaken enforcement and some noted that it could create loopholes. Many respondents felt that reusable vaping products, or nicotine replacement therapies would be sufficient. For example: *'I can't see a rationale for other exemptions', 'It is understandable in prisons, but apart from that no, as there are reusable options available for those who vape', 'Putting in list of exemptions dilutes the effectiveness - all or nothing', 'It should be consistent for all areas. This will also remove the possibility of people claiming ignorance of the exceptions', 'No exemptions. Smoking ban in public has reduced smoking deaths and a better night time environment in pubs and bars. I would ban them full stop', 'Ideally there should be a blanket ban as allowing exemptions will not do enough to resolve the problems', 'I think disposable vapes should be banned completely', 'No exceptions at all', 'I think it is necessary to take a firm stance on this issue', 'I don't believe there show [SIC] be any exemptions', 'There is little, if anything to be achieved by making exceptions to the banning of single use products'.*

However, one respondent felt that: *'the impact on climate change of vape use is infinitesimally small in comparison with many other domestic and commercial products and is a feeble and transparent excuse for this proposal, nonetheless exemptions are pointless'.*

Additional Exemption Suggestions

A minority (**13.75%**) of respondents supported additional exemptions noting hospices, residential care units and/or mental health secure inpatient facilities as areas where disposable vaping products could prove beneficial. Comments included: *'Some forms of vapes should still be useable for patients in hospitals / hospice should be allowed if prisoners are also allowed', 'I cannot think of any [exemption] except for residential homes', 'Manannan Court should be included in the exemptions, people who are on a section and have no S17 leave, have no way to buy vapes. They are allowed to vape in the courtyard but if they can't access them, then it can make their mental health worse. Staff have previously been able to go to [shops] and buy (with patients money) disposable vapes if there's none in the ward similar to the prison vapes and for someone who is really struggling with their mental health, the addiction to nicotine and withdrawals can all be made worse with no disposable vapes. Also, Manannan Court will not charge reusable vapes in their office as they're not 'PAT' tested. So disposables are the only option', 'It is good to see that there are proposed exemptions for prisoners, but people with brain injury, learning disabilities, mental ill health, dexterity issues, and sight loss should also be considered', 'Hospice - I think a patients in hospices should be allowed whatever they want, vapes included and if they can have and use disposable then that's a good thing. Aside from hospice and prisons they should be banned outright'.*

Note, secure medical care sites are exempted in the draft regulations, as places of detention (Regulation 5(2)b) but non-secure units are not.

Opinions on Prison Exemption

Several respondents commented negatively on the Prison exemption: *'So prisoners have more rights than non-prisoners?', 'Prisons could introduce reusable and refillable vapes or the inhalers that are available to purchase in Boots and other chemists. Or, they could supply nicotine replacement therapy', 'I don't think prison should be exempt - they shouldn't be allowed them in general as that's a luxury - if it's a rule you are going to implement make it one rule for everyone', 'Maybe prisoners should have vapes and cigs taken off them also? Unless medication', 'The prison shouldn't get anything! They are being punished and shouldn't be entitled to luxuries like vapes', 'prisoners should not be provided with these at all, as they are after all, a drug and can also be used as currency in the prison. Prisoners should not be allowed tobacco/nicotine if they are not allowed alcohol!'*

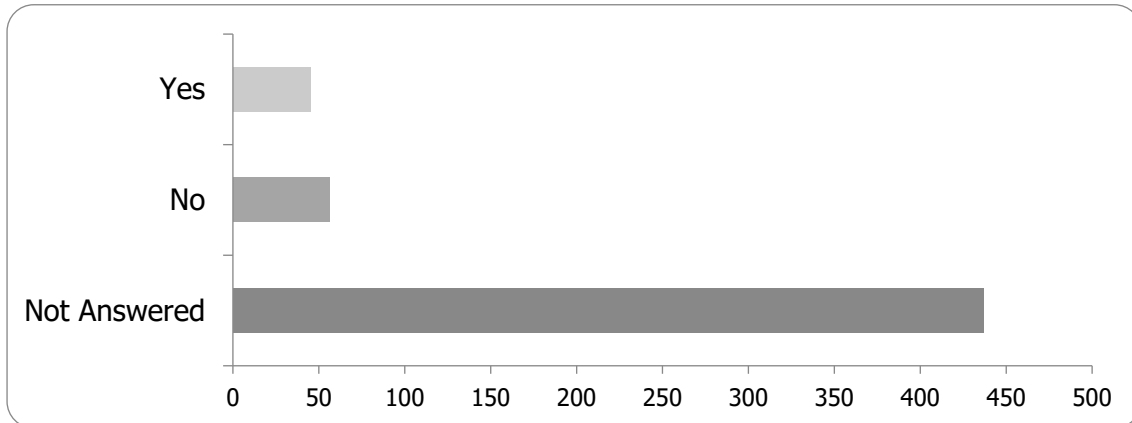
Note, reusable vaping products cannot be used in places of detention, such as prisons, due to the risks posed by the wires in them, which could be used as ligatures.

Complete Ban

Many respondents felt that exemptions were unnecessary: *'They should not be available for purchase', 'Ban them', 'I think they should be banned all together. I also think that if they are not banned there should be a smoking/vaping ban on strand street', 'A COMPLETE BAN ON THE SALE OF VAPING PRODUCTS', 'They should not be available at all. People / users should be weaned of under medical supervision', 'I think if reusable vapes are available, there is no need for any form of single use vapes. There is more than one reputable business on island that provides this service with sound advice and strict adherence to the law in terms of age', 'Must apply across the board with no exemptions', 'Vapes should be banned, they are highly addictive, can lead to further drug use, are aimed at children and are a total waste of money, especially for those who can least afford them and/or rely on benefits', 'Nowhere can they be considered essential, as they have only been around a few years', 'It would be too difficult to police one rule for some but not others. The best way is a total ban', 'To me smoking and vaping are a non-necessity, so I see no purpose for exemptions', 'Should be banned altogether', 'All Vapes ought to be banned, its like a dummy/pacifier for adults and really aren't necessary', 'No exceptions are necessary', 'A blanket ban is simply what's needed and long overdue'.*

ix. **IF YOU ARE RESPONDING ON BEHALF OF A BUSINESS WHICH SELLS OR SUPPLIES SINGLE USE VAPES, DO YOU THINK 6 MONTHS IS A SUITABLE TRANSITION PERIOD TO USE EXISTING STOCK? [YES/NO]**

There were **101** responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	45	8.36%
No	56	10.41%
Not Answered	437	81.23%

Comments Box ["Explain your answer. If no, please include what you think would be a suitable transition period below"]:

There were **40** responses to this part of the question.

Proposed Transition Period (6 months)

One hundred and one respondents had an opinion on the length of the proposed transition period for businesses to use up their stock:

- **55%** believed the 6-month transition period is not appropriate
- **45%** believed the 6-month transition period is appropriate

Out of **83** additional comments:

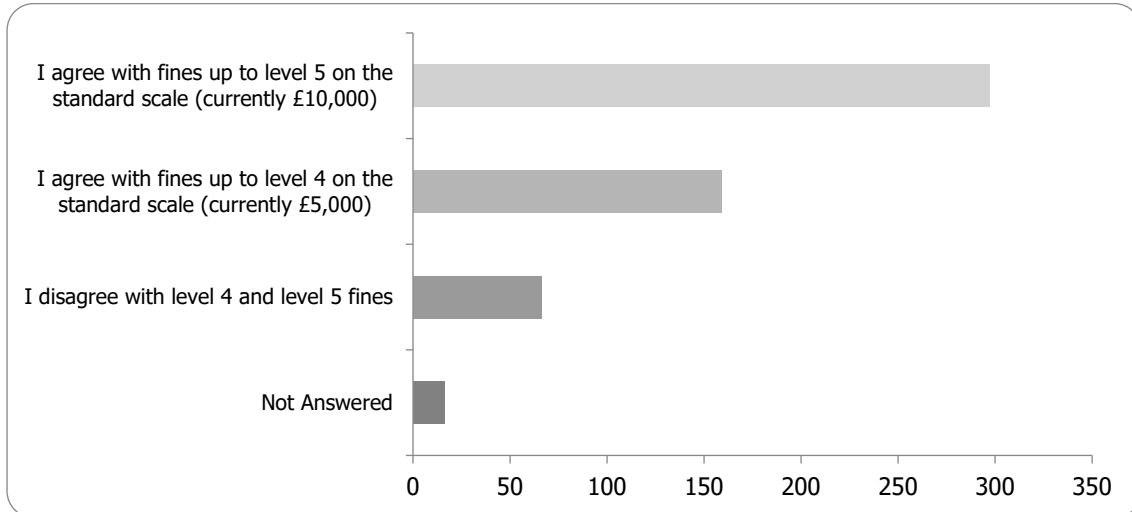
- **37%** supported the 6-month transition period, either fully or conditionally.
- **48%** oppose it, some wanted a shorter window, others a longer one, and a handful of respondents called for immediate bans.
- **15%** were neutral

Key concerns included resale risks, enforcement challenges, and financial losses for retailers. A few respondents suggested that Vape Shops may need more time than general retailers, while others felt any transition period would be exploited or ineffective.

The UK regulations came in without a use up period, though reports on the internet state that some single-use vaping products remain in shops contravening the legislation. Producers rapidly developed new products in order to meet the new legal requirements.

- x. **SHOULD THE LEVEL OF MAXIMUM FINES BE MATCHED WITH THE CLIMATE CHANGE (SINGLE USE PLASTICS) REGULATIONS 2022, AT UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE (CURRENTLY £10,000), OR MATCHED WITH THE VAPING PRODUCTS ACT IN RELATION TO SALE OR SUPPLY, AT UP TO LEVEL 4 (CURRENTLY £5,000)? [AGREE/DISAGREE]**

There were **522** responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
I agree with fines up to level 5 on the standard scale (currently £10,000)	297	55.20%
I agree with fines up to level 4 on the standard scale (currently £5,000)	159	29.55%
I disagree with level 4 and level 5 fines	66	12.27%
Not Answered	16	2.97%

Comments Box [If you disagreed with level 4 and level 5 fines, please explain what you would consider to be a more appropriate penalty]:

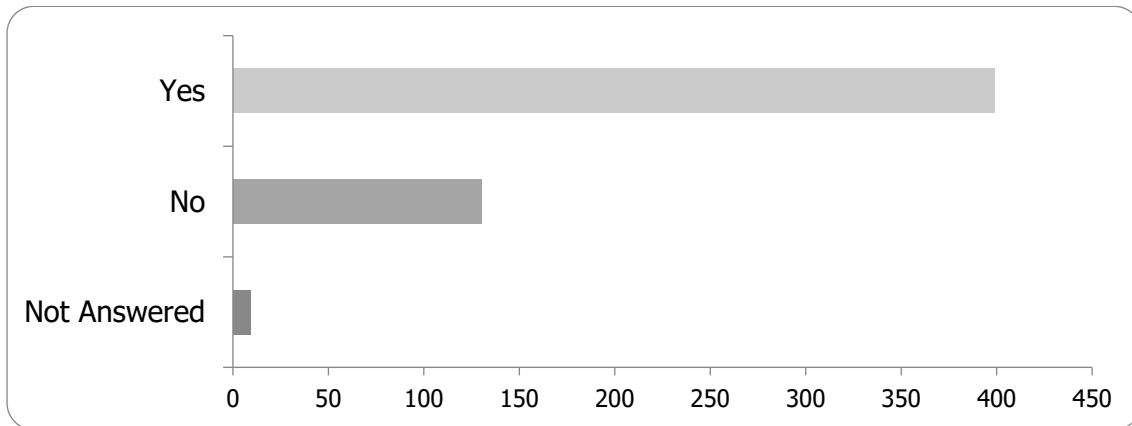
There were **71** responses to this part of the question.

Fine Levels

Twenty nine percent of respondents felt that fines up to level 4 on the standard scale (currently £5,000) was appropriate. However, the majority (**55%**) agreed with fines up to level 5 on the standard scale (currently £10,000). In contrast, **12%** disagreed with level 4 or level 5 fines, and c.**3%** did not answer the questions related to fines.

xi. **DO YOU THINK THAT 'POD' VAPING SYSTEMS (REFER TO THE 'POD VAPES' SECTION ABOVE FOR MORE DETAILS) SHOULD BE CONTROLLED BY THESE REGULATIONS? [YES/NO]**

There were **529** responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	399	74.16%
No	130	24.16%
Not Answered	9	1.67%

Comments Box:

There were **249** responses to this part of the question.

Most respondents believed that 'pod vapes' (c.**74%**) should be controlled by the proposed regulations.

Here follow some of the comments made:

- *'All vaping systems should be controlled in the same way'*
- *'If the issue is truly environmental they should be included'*
- *'Far less environmental impact from re-useable vapes'*
- *'The pods will just be discarded (dropped as litter) by some individuals if they are allowed to be used'*
- *'No. These should be viewed as an essential medical intervention for the cessation of smoking'*
- *'There is so much other litter that contains way more plastic'*
- *'Not entirely as there is a reusable element to these devises, but there should be some consideration to these'*
- *'Pods are disposable and will create litter and as such pod systems should be controlled'*
- *'Reasonable alternative to disposable vapes. 'Controlling' pods may force users to use black market disposables which are unregulated and unsafe'*
- *'Whilst contributing to waste, there is not too much difference between the plastic bottle which the vape liquid comes in, the coil (filter) also required and the pod system. Recycling schemes for all should be introduced, at the point of sale' (from someone against controlling pod sales)*

- *'The potential for pod vape litter is a concern that aligns with the broader environmental and public health objectives of the proposed regulations. Controlling pod vapes would ensure a more comprehensive approach to reducing plastic waste and mitigating the litter problem'*
- *'Not all pods are disposable some are refillable and have replacement coils therefore the waste element is minimalised'*
- *'A pod is not much different than buying a little bottle of e-liquid to fill your vape - same size etc.'*
- *'the disposable nature of these items makes them inexpensive to buy, and as such they do not encourage users to make a financial commitment to purchasing reusable products, such as refillable vapes'*
- *'In my opinion, as a user of a pod vape and friends of users with pod vapes, users of pod vapes rarely litter them and instead dispose of them in a bin, however there is probably a small minority of the users that litter them'*
- *'They are not disposable vapes, and are no different to other types of pods (e.g. Nespresso pods)'*
- *'[SIC]'*
- *'Anything that is designed to regularly generate disposable plastic waste (no doubt with additional outer packaging) should be covered by the regs - otherwise, I suspect, the disposable vape litter will just be replaced by the disposable pods and associated packaging. Presumably a pod vaping system generates more plastic waste than a truly refillable vape? If so, they should be covered in my view and the least polluting alternative favoured'*
- *'Just generally fed up with the world wanting to put restrictions on everything. What happened to free will'*
- *'Pod vaping is by definition a reusable vape so I feel this should sit outside the category of single use'*
- *'POD vapes are becoming rechargeable, limiting the waste that is produced and making them better than the disposables'*
- *'I think that placing regulations on the current solutions is not the best choice, I think first tackling the issue of the single use plastic vapes is more important than regulating the reusable options out there currently. If all are controlled in the same regulations without the long term solutions yet in existence I feel this could hinder the goals of the regulations'*
- *'The pods are plastic and can be recycled. If the island had more chance to recycle with the likes of the two recycling bins at every home then I'm sure they'd be recycled. Pod vapes are good for people who do not want a big tank vape but also the price of them is a lot less'*
- *'From my previous use of these devices I can confirm the level of complex waste created from these is very low'*
- *'These should be allowed but fines imposed if not disposed of correctly'*
- *'Let's make it simple and not over complicate it for consumers and suppliers' (from someone who was 'for' a ban)*
- *'Combatting disposal may be better approached by supporting retailers where possible to offer disposal for consumers as they will most likely be return customers and raising awareness of this'*

- *'The most harmful waste when disposable vapes are littered is the battery. Whilst pod vapes means a small amount of plastic waste from the pods, the battery doesn't enter the recycling/waste system each time the pod is replaced'*
- *'By using light weight plastic to package the liquid rather than heavy glass the climate change impact of transporting the pods could actually be less than using refills. A life cycle analysis would be interesting to see'*
- *'I don't think that pod vaping systems should be banned as single-use items, as other types of vapes are more difficult to use and a steeper learning curve. However facilities for recycling these types of plastics would be beneficial, as they are not recyclable with ordinary plastics'*
- *'Many things "could potentially form litter" but that is not usually considered a reason to ban them'*
- *'only option for people with impairments'*
- *'The law will become to complicated i feel and could persuade manufactures to make their product look like other products to escape a ban'*
- *'I think that replaceable coils should be a requirement for something to be allowed for sale, as coils often only last between a couple of days to a couple of weeks'*
- *'I don't approve of the use of any vapes other than for the purpose of weaning people addicted to cigarettes off their habit. I can see a case for their being banded unless prescribed. The tax on cigareetes [SIC] is effective with twenty now costing about £14. the vaping industry has latched onto this and the main thrust of their sales strategy seems to be "5000 puffs- long lasting and cost saving" at £8.99.'*
- *'They represent a far more environmentally friendly approach. Littering concerns should be addressed at the offenders level, and not cause responsible customers to experience a restriction or ban on them using a product and disposing of any waste responsibly. I'd happily have a bigger crackdown on littering in general'*
- *'In effect they are no worse than reusable ones filled with 'vape juice' from plastic bottles. It is the wholly disposable vapes that are the problem. I think another huge problem, as bad as disposable vapes is small drinking water plastic bottles which litter our streets tod'*
- *'make them recyclable and sellers must provide facilities for this.'*
- *'Banning pod vapes could have negative consequences for adults using them as a harm-reduction method, but without stricter regulation, they pose significant risks, especially to youth. Therefore, a balanced approach that involves strict regulation on flavors, nicotine levels, sales, and environmental standards might be a more effective way to manage the risks associated with pod vapes than an outright ban. This approach allows for harm reduction while minimising the public health and environmental risks'*
- *'Pod vaping does have plastic that is binned after some time however as someone who moved from 'tank' vaping (where the metal coil is the only thing that is binned) to a pod vape there are other aspects to consider other than the waste. The frequency of a coil change in a non-pod vape usually happens once every 2 weeks or less, the pod I'm currently using can last 5-8 weeks before it need a change. This is because the pod vaping operates at a much lower wattage so a coil will get to an unusable state much slower. Also, some of the larger non-pod vapes use coils that are the same size as a pod itself and probably have more waste over set period of time'*

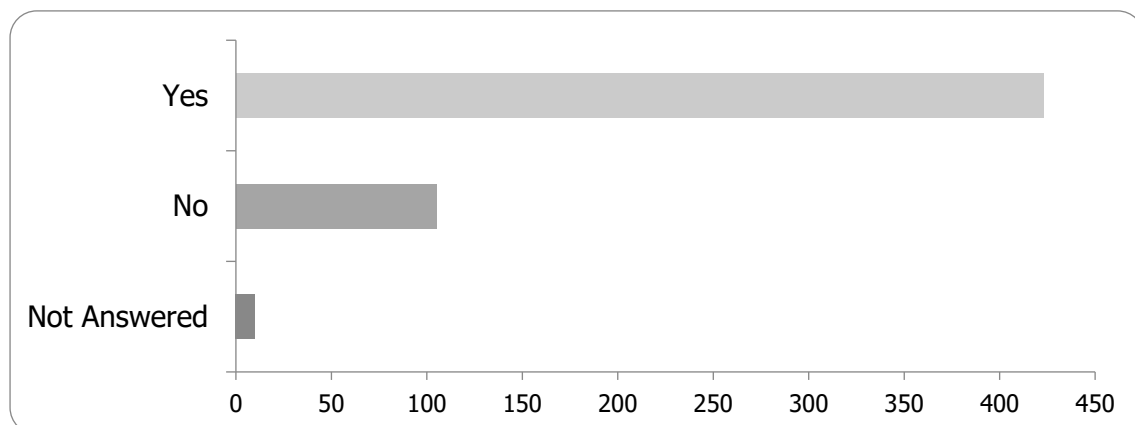
- *'I believe that there is potential for systems like this to be used as a way to circumnavigate the legislation whilst still having a damaging effect on the environment. I would be especially concerned if the price point of these vapes is similar to that of existing disposable vape products - i.e. removing the insensitive to reuse. This has already been exploited by manufacturers who add usb charging ports to vapes to make them "reusable" despite there being no way of refilling the device'*
- *'Need to establish whether PODs are recyclable plastic type 1, 2 or 5. Also is there a fire hazard e.g.: lithium? If not, then it should be dealt with using Litter Act'*
- *'Pod vapes seem to be a healthier option than the non-pod vapes as most of them operate at a higher wattage and produce huge clouds of vape'*

One response noted that users of disposable vapes would probably move to using pod vapes, and if they were irresponsible in their disposal of the single use vapes, then they would probably act similarly with disposable pods. One suggested refill containers could be targeted separately to reduce waste but pods should not be banned. One suggested pod vapes should be reusable/refillable by law. Some answers discerned between glass pods and plastic pods.

The New Nicotine Alliance states, *'Prohibition of single use vapes already has the potential to cause great damage to public health on the Isle of Man, this should certainly not be compounded by also removing pod systems from the market, and thereby another vital product which has helped millions of vapers to quit combustible tobacco use'*. Similarly, Totally Wicked noted that *'they are a great transition tool for getting people off disposables. Getting rid of reusable products that people enjoy like Prefilled devices will drive sales online! Some customers do not like refillable'*.

xii. DO YOU THINK THAT 'PAPER' VAPES (REFER TO THE 'PAPER VAPES' SECTION ABOVE FOR MORE DETAILS) SHOULD BE CONTROLLED BY THESE REGULATIONS? [YES/NO]

There were **528** responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	423	78.62%
No	105	19.52%
Not Answered	10	1.86%

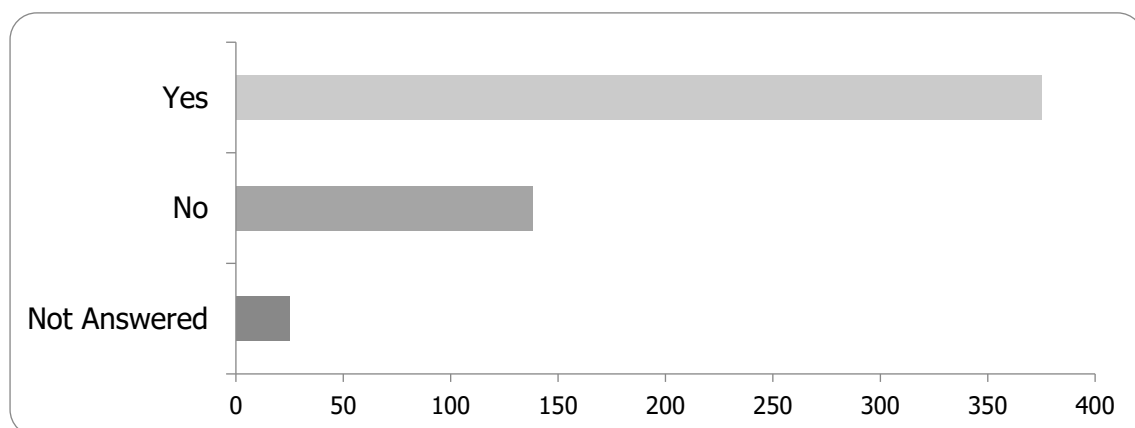
Comments Box:

There were **233** responses to this part of the question.

There were mixed opinions on 'paper' vapes, however the majority of respondents (**78%**) felt that 'paper' vapes should be included: *'Presumably the disposable paper vapes still come with packaging and a battery which may all still be tossed out of a car window or dropped on the pavement or beach etc? I can't see that a lithium-ion battery and wiring is less harmful for the environment than a plastic casing. Even if a paper vape contains only small plastic components, this is still plastic (and is perhaps fewer steps away from becoming microplastic and even more difficult to remove from the environment). In my view, we should be encouraging reusable and durable products, not disposable products of any sort (on the basis of emissions and water use in manufacture if not otherwise). Even if 'only' the paper components are being disposed of in the environment, litter of any sort appears to encourage more littering, so in my view we should be reducing any source of litter we can. I find some sort of packaging associated with disposable vaping products at the side of the road most days', 'Restricting single use plastics will encourage more environmentally friendly options to be developed. Paper based with a small amount of plastic would be a significant reduction in plastic waste and reflects a general trend of reducing single use plastics. I believe this could be a better policy to reduce total amount of plastic used rather than making it difficult for manufacturers to continue producing their products because it might still contain a small amount'.*

- xiii. **RISKS ARE RECOGNISED RELATING TO HOME-MADE VAPES, THE POTENTIAL FOR CHILDREN TURNING TO CIGARETTES, AND INCREASED IMPORTATION; THESE RISKS ARE ASSESSED TO BE LOW IN COMPARISON WITH THE CURRENT ISSUES CAUSED BY DISPOSABLE VAPES. DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS ASSESSMENT? [YES/NO]**

There were **513** responses to this part of the question.

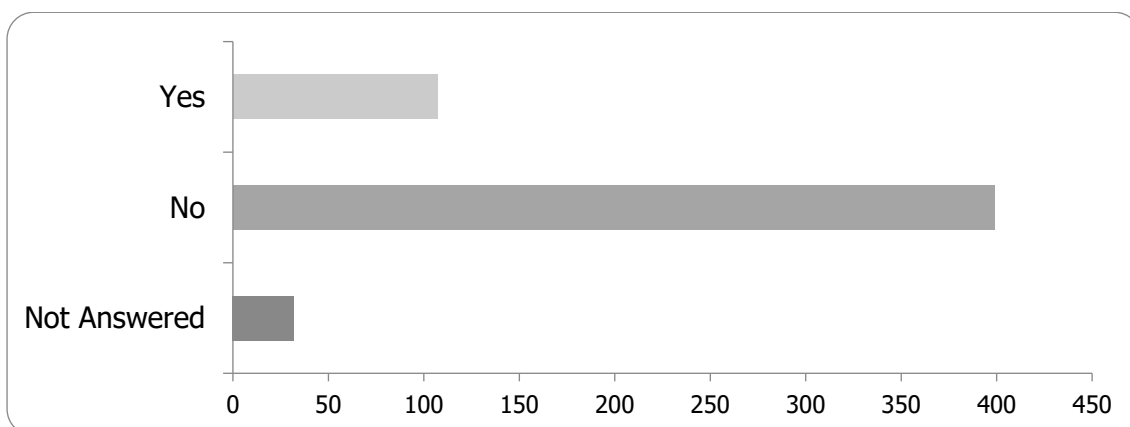


Option	Total	Percent
Yes	375	69.70%
No	138	25.65%
Not Answered	25	4.65%

There were **200** responses to this part of the question. **Seventy percent** of respondents agreed that issues surrounding home-made vapes, the potential for children turning to cigarettes, and increased importation were *lower* risks than the current issues caused by disposable vapes.

xiv. DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS? [YES/NO]

There were **506** responses to this part of the question.



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	107	19.89%
No	399	74.16%
Not Answered	32	5.95%

Comments Box [If yes, please detail these below]:

There were **115** responses to this part of the question. **Three quarters** of respondents had no further suggestions.

Suggestions offered:

- Encourage the use of appropriate waste streams.
- Provide recycling points.
- Mandate every shop that sells vaping product must offer a recycle bin for correct disposal.
- *'Introduce incentives to encourage recycling'*
- Fine improper disposal. (Note, littering is an offence).
- Educate users.
- *'If necessary to prescribe or distribute, just use a simple exchange system 1 in 1 out to ensure disposal is managed'*
- *'Leave the sale of disposable vapes to regulated vape shops, not every corner shop you come across'*

- *'Doctors should be able to prescribe single use vapes as part of the smoking cessation process'. Note, medical devices and medicinal products are not included as vaping devices within the definition used in these draft regulations. They are excluded from the Regulations.*
- *'some people who have grip related disability can find it easier to use disposable vapes as not to aggravate [SIC] any conditions'*
- Ban vapes entirely.
- Ban vaping in public spaces.
- If not banned, then bring in high taxes.
- Restrict to those over 25 years of age. Fine those underage.

xv. IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS, PLEASE INCLUDE THESE BELOW:

There were **78** responses to this part of the question.

'Nobody fully understands both the short- and long-term effects of these [chemicals] on the human body and the wider environment'.

Weaning Tool

*'Vapes were supposedly introduced as a means to wean people off the habit of smoking tobacco. However it has now been directly marketed at young people most of whom have never smoked before. (Statistics prove this) There are plenty of nicotine replacement alternatives (NRT) to encourage and help anyone who is addicted to nicotine. Vapes should never have been made as a new and trendy habit for people to embark upon. Therefore they should not in my opinion be made available to anyone including prisoners', 'Charities should be able to provide them to support people wanting to quit, as if people have reusable ones they can easily keep vaping instead of limiting themselves', 'I do not view vaping as a method of weaning people off other tobacco products. They are a dangerous entry drug and should be outlawed completely', 'Should only be necessary in relation to helping people remove their addiction', 'May in controlled environment, those who are helping heavy smokers trying to quit. Shouldn't be allowed to carry it home or the cycle may never stop for dishonest people', 'Stop smoking services should be allowed to give people the vapes for short periods of time to aid with the transition from smoking to not', 'When it comes to adult use, the more forward-looking stop smoking services regularly recommend smokers opt for a single use vape both as a cost-efficient entry-level product to help them quit, and for the purpose of trying out different flavours before opting for something more permanent. Banning the devices, without exempting supply to smoking cessation clinics, would close off this option for adult smokers seeking to quit. It would also affect older would-be quitters and those with disabilities, who say they find disposables easier to manage, without the added complication of filling a tank and changing coils'. **Note:** medicinal products and medical devices are excluded from the draft regulations.*

Government Overreach (no ban)

A handful of respondents believed it was not the Government responsibility to regulate smoking and vaping: *'It would be good to see environmentally friendly disposable vapes available for purchase onboard the Steam Packet Vessels, at the Isle of Man Airport and from pub vending machines', 'As per views expressed earlier, it is not a case of passing more regulations only to exempt - pointless red tape - it shouldn't be regulated at all', 'Any entity that has the ability to sell tobacco products should have the ability to sell vape products. Single use or other', 'There are more important things for government [SIC] to concern themselves with right now'.*

Health Concerns

'Vaping is proven to cause lung damage', 'The use of any vapes should be discouraged as the long term damage is not fully known our lungs are not designed to inhale vapour', 'They are a danger to health', 'Our health care is millions of pounds over budget, this will only get worse unless you ban this',

'Lung cancer has ravaged families across the globe for the last 70 years, a disease primarily caused by one culprit—smoking. Every family in our community has felt it in one way or another. Every family has lost someone, or witnessed the slow, agonising decline of a loved one to this deadly disease. This harm has caused immense emotional pain and devastation in our communities, stripping away too many lives far too soon' But here's the truth: we've made remarkable progress. Thanks to modern alternatives like vapes, the UK and the Isle of Man now boasts one of the lowest smoking rates in the world. And it's no coincidence that as vaping has become more accessible, fewer people are smoking. Fewer people are dying from lung cancer. It's that simple.' So why, then, would we consider taking a step backwards?

'Banning disposable vapes—this lifeline for so many ex-smokers—could drive some number of people back to the very habit that caused so much devastation. We know, without question, that smoking causes cancer. It is a killer. And by banning disposable vapes, we risk forcing individuals back into the arms of this lethal addiction.

'What's being proposed in Tynwald is not just misguided—it's dangerous. We are staring down a proposal that will very likely result in the deaths of people from lung cancer. It is extraordinary that this chamber is even considering a policy that, based on all the evidence we have, will probably cause some people to return to smoking and die as a consequence.

'We need to be clear-headed about the stakes here. This isn't just about litter, or single-use plastics, or some ill-conceived idea of public health. It's about lives—real lives—who will be lost if people are denied the safer alternative to smoking. We must not let that happen.'

'Not enough information about the vapes themselves is known yet. It's not just the user that suffers they affects [SIC] of them. I work in a pub that allows it, I am a non smoker/vaper. I don't want to come in and face other people's fumes!'

Plastic Waste and Disposable Options

'I don't think they should be readily available anywhere and don't agree with cafes or even outdoor public areas being permitted to use vapes. IF single use waste is to be monitored then they should be used only in a permitted home/private property & disposal made in a separate waste tub to have a better idea of what demographic is producing more plastic waste', 'All convenience stores and vape shops should be able to sell them but agree to a recycling scheme to do so'.

Battery Issues

'There are better alternatives including rechargeable vapes if required. Additionally, this seems to put emphasis on plastic being the issue - the real issue is the battery and the composite materials that make the recycling process almost impossible without manual intervention', 'The plastic is the least of our worries. It is the wasteful use of the material (and energy) used to construct the battery and wires where a ban will have the most benefit'.

3 SUMMARY

Support for the Regulations

'The proposed regulations to prohibit the sale, supply, and distribution of single-use vapes containing plastic. These products contribute significantly to plastic pollution, often ending up in landfills, oceans, and other natural environments, where they take hundreds of years to decompose. Moreover, the improper disposal of vapes poses serious risks to both wildlife and human health due to the toxic chemicals they contain. By banning single-use vapes with plastic components, we can reduce environmental damage, encourage the use of more sustainable alternatives, and push manufacturers to innovate eco-friendly solutions. This regulation is a vital step towards reducing waste and safeguarding our planet for future generations.'

Most responding businesses supported the introduction of regulations prohibiting the sale, supply and distribution of single use vaping products containing plastic, citing environmental harm, public health concerns and youth access as main concerns. The companies that did not support the ban generally believed that a ban could lead to growth in sales on the black market, and a reduction in VAT revenue.

In addition, some companies noted that there has been a decrease in the sale of tobacco products corresponding to the increase in vaping product sales, and many adults transition from smoking tobacco to smoking disposable vaping products, before either quitting or moving on to the reusable vaping products available.

However, overall, approximately **87%** of all respondents agreed with the proposed introduction of regulations.

The most common concerns cited as reason to support the regulations were preventing youth access and addiction, followed by environmental impact and public health risks. Environmental concerns included littering, plastic waste, and battery disposal were raised as

key issues. Lithium batteries were cited as a specific hazard. Health risks and youth access were tightly linked. Respondents frequently cited addiction, marketing tactics, and school-age use as intertwined concerns.

A minority of respondents opposed to the ban focused on personal freedom, most opposition focused on their use as a cessation aid.

Approximately, three quarters (**74%**) of respondents supported controls on 'pod' vapes and **79%** supported controls on 'paper' vapes, though comments provided a wide range of views on both sides of each consideration.

Recycling options were a recurring suggestion. Several responses proposed better disposal schemes, bins, or incentives. It was felt that clarity is needed on disposal routes. Better enforcement against littering was also suggested.