Department of Health
Standardised Packaging Consultation
P.O. Box 1126
Canterbury
CT1 9NE

Date 24-7-14

Re: Plain Packaging Consultation

Plain packaging will affect my business for the following reasons:

1) Illicit trade will increase

2) More difficult and time consuming to identify brands on shelf

3) Customers will buy the cheapest product to lose my profit margin

Yours faithfully
Dear Jeremy Hunt M.P.,

I write to you as a formal consultation response. The government is one minute supposedly supporting small and local shops. In the next comes across in a very different manner when it is said to be following E.U laws and banning packs of less than 20 cigarettes and roll your own tobacco of less than 30gm.

Again another E.U. directive of 65% health warning. What's the point of plain packaging—also creating the closed fronts on cigarette gantries. As these health warnings cannot be seen until after purchase, which also creates extra time in selling to the customer, turning our backs to the public whilst opening and closing these fronts. Thus creating unsafe time with our backs to the public. The government's claims decrease in transaction times is unjust considering the increase in times to open and close these units.

Illegal traders have no worries over whom they sell duty-free and illegal cigarettes. Whilst as a retailer I am not permitted to sell to anyone under the age of 18 without the possibilities of a £5000 fine and possible imprisonment. Not only duty-free but illegal cigarettes and tobacco from foreign countries whose composition is not just unhealthy—but dangerous.

Plain packs will also encourage smokers to a cheaper brand creating less income to the government, less profit for the retailer and possible closure of units creating an increase in unemployment and more cost to the government.

Like a lot of things we as a country follow on from others, one of the most recent is plain packaging and closed units in Australia. Which in itself has created an increase of illegal cigarettes and tobacco.

Thus creating a decrease in sales, a decrease in retail outlets. A decrease in tax income. An increase in unemployment, an increase in duty-free supplies, an increase in illegal cigarettes and tobacco which in itself creates a further increase to the National Health Service.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt,

I am writing in response to the Plant Fold consultation. I do not agree with Plant Fold reorganizing for the current reason. This is because I will lose sales to the supermarket and supermarket business is already difficult, and I will lose more turnover and say

I will my farm taken to please my customers will be greatly slowed down or will not be able to find the brands quickly.

Please keep my thoughts for mind when coming for decision.

Yours,

[Signature]
Dear Mr Hunt,

We are strongly opposed to the new legislation that all tobacco products have to be plain packets. In my opinion this will lead to the sale of illegal tobacco. It will effect our sales in an already struggling economy. Having researched it on line there is no evidence that when introduced in Australia it decreased sales of underage purchases. As long as staff are properly trained in not selling to minors I think that and good parent-ing will suffice.
Dept of Health
Standardised Tobacco Package Consultation
P.O. Box 1128
Canterbury
CT 9 WA
28th January 2014
Ref Formal Consultation Response

Dear Mr. Hunt,

I as a shop keeper am opposed to standardising or plain packaging on cigarettes. It would cause confusion and upset for both staff and customers. As I am sure you are aware a similar "experiment" was carried out in Australia with an adverse effect therefore the necessity of this proposed change, I feel would be unnecessary.

Yours faithfully
Dear Mr. Hunt,

I am writing to you as I am deeply concerned about the introduction of plain packaging on all Tobacco products. I have been trading as an independent retailer for over thirty years and business has never been tougher, my main concern is that by putting tobacco products into plain packs this is going to increase purchases of illicit brands as they are sold in every estate within the Horgan area.

I am totally against promoting tobacco to underage children but feel this is the wrong way about doing this, educating children within the school environment is key.

By putting tobacco products into plain packs it is also going to be very confusing for both the consumers and my staff thus taking more time and money to train them up.

I am aware that Australia brought in similar laws a couple of years ago but can’t find any evidence to prove that this has made a difference.

Regards,
To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an independent own retailer. I am concerned about the plain packaging of Tobacco products proposed by the govt as it will affect my business primarily.

Plain packaging will make it very difficult for shopkeepers like me to distinguish between different brands easily while customer can keep waiting meaning loss saving loss customers for hour other than now.

Jumbo brands of cigarretes will increase. I believe due to this govt proposed introduction of plain packets
Dear Mr. Hunt,

I would like to respond to the "plain packaging consultation. I am a small shopkeeper. I am very concerned about the plain packaging, and I believe it to be totally unnecessary as it would lead to increase in counterfeit cig, in turn reducing my footfall and therefore my overall profit. This will affect my livelihood and might result in closing down of my business. Being 59 years old and having run this business for 40 years, it will make the time enormously and difficult.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I am writing this letter in relation to my opposition of the new alleged plain packaging law.

I oppose this law for the following reasons:

1. The government should be supporting small retail shops like myself but instead are placing a burden on me.

2. Serving times will increase due to all packs' being same colour and size.

3. Products will be more easier to counterfeit resulting in increased counterfeit trade and return affect the brand which is proved by the evidence from Australia.

4. The display ban is yet to come into effect and you are imposing even more restrictions. I would recommend seeing how the display ban goes first before jumping to impose plain packaging.

Please accept this as a formal consultation response and I hope you take my points into consideration and do not go ahead with this proposed legislation.

Yours Sincerely,
Deputy First Minister,

This is my formal consultation response.

I own 3 businesses in Northern Ireland, employing 36 people, all of which being convenience stores under the Spar brand. The nature of my businesses and a fact of life of convenience stores and CINS is that tobacco sales account for a large part of participation within all of my sites, averaging 35%.

Whereas I recognise the health implications from tobacco smoking, I think the measures you are looking to introduce will have a negative and lasting effect on my businesses, that is I can remain in business. As any business/company would struggle losing 35% of its turnover.

- Bigger packs will lead to customers visiting my stores less frequently, less frequently, and in turn have an even greater impact on turnover.
- Plain packaging is playing into the hands of the smugglers, an already massive headache for us as a business.
- The confusion from plain packaging at the Point Of Sale is going to cause all manner of problems.
- Evidence from the Australian Government's response to tobacco sales points to an increase in the smuggled tobacco trade.
- We, as retailers, are bound by the law with regards to age related sales...smugglers aren't.

I would urge you to listen to us retailers and make the correct decision.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Dear Mr J Hunt (MP),

I am writing to you in the hope that you will listen to my plea that you should abandon the short-sighted proposal of having tobacco products sold in plain packaging.

Small shopkeepers are the hub of any community and I am astonished that the Government would look at any proposal that would damage this.

The illicit trade will think they have won the lottery should this proposal go through and we think that our Government were responsible is astonishing.

I would appeal to you to show some support for the small shopkeeper by your actions and not false promises.

I challenge you to spend an hour in a selection of small shops throughout the country and witness the feeling and views at first hand from customers and retailers alike.

If you agree to do the above, I would be very confident that you would have a change of heart and make the correct decision to shelve these plans for a very long time therefore rewarding the law abiding retailers who police the sale of tobacco very successfully.

Yours sincerely,

[Proprietor]
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

Please note this is a formal response to the Plain Pack Consultation.
There are many issues against plain packs. Here are a couple that affect me:
1. Security. It will mean longer time to find cigarettes.
2. Sales. Sales will go down because of counterfeiters. Profits will also go down as customer will move to cheaper brands. Brands will look the same.

There are many more reasons that will affect the business.

Please thoroughly consider how this will affect me and many others like me.

Yours Sincerely
Dear Jeremy

I am writing this letter in response to the consultation on plain packaging.

I feel this is even more of a burden on old retailers as we have not even had the displays banned to come in effect and the government want to impose even more restrictions.

You, the government should support some shops but instead time creating more burden for us small shops.

The government is trying to state that the retailer will benefit but a change in transaction times when coming into plain packaging is unnecessary and I believe it won't work. So it shouldn't be imposed.

It is causing me stress and headache as well.

Many thanks
Dear Mr. Jeremy Hunt MP

Sub: Proposed new legislation for plain packs of cigarettes in U.K.

I understand...take this liberty to request you to look into negative impact by introducing plain packs in our country.

1. This will instill fear in smokers and give incentive to copy these packs and smuggle into the country and our Government, cigarette company, distributors, wholesalers and retailers thereof will be greatly affected (indirectly).

2. Plain packaging will create more confusion and more problems in distribution and ill end-users, consumers.

3. It has been well proven in Australia where 28% sales of branded products increased after introduction of plain packaging whereas actual government received decreased revenue due to packet shrinkage.

Therefore we kindly request you to consider or discuss on this issue for mutual benefits for all the parties.

Thanking you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

This is a retailer's formal consultation response.

I have run my convenience store for 28 years this year, and in that time I have experienced many changes in legislation especially in cigarettes and also the huge increase in costs all of which have put more strain on me and my business.

In April 2015 I will have to adapt my cigarette section to comply, this has to be paid for from the "profit" from cigarette sales which isn't much.

Now it is proposed to make cigarette packets plain, there are many reasons that this will have a detrimental impact on my business.

The new rules on keeping cigarettes covered, stipulate a limited time they can be visible for, and if every packet looks the same it is going to take more time to locate the customer's choice, possibly going over the time limit and it will mean a sale being taken longer and other customers possibly leaving without their purchases because they cannot wait, so more loss of trade for the poor old retailer.

Non English speaking customers who up to now have been able to select their brand of cigarettes by the colours on the packets and what about the elderly?

What measures are to be used to stop counterfeiting, which will be easier if packets are plain, an illegal activity which causes losses in sales not to mention the loss revenue to the government.

I would like to know how much data there is to back up this change in legislation more research needs to be done before rushing through this new legislation.

Kind regards,

A Morroccan Retailer
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

I'm an independent retailer

I still don't understand and I never will the rationale behind the plain packaging plans.

As an independent retailer, I believe this letter won't make a big difference, but in my humble opinion plain packaging won't make things better.

We live in a free country and people should be able to choose what they want to do, it's been like that for decades.

I will lose business, because it will be easier to counterfeit packs of cigarettes, the Inland Revenue will lose big time as well and people will keep smoking.

It's easier to make decisions when people don't leave in real world, the real economy.

This is a retailer's formal consultation response.

Yours sincerely
Plain colours will be confusing for our customers, because they are used to their own product and their own colours, and by changing the colours, they will be totally confused. And by this we can lose our sale as well.

Thank you
Depth of Field
School Supply
P.O. Box 1126
Columbia
CT 06233

Sure charge of furrying short 

DEAR SIR,

I recently managed at Big Apple 
shop and I am 46 in 
January last last year. 
we know the importance 
at sales of eggs in small 
state, the normally sell 
are either in keros and go 
more than 51 bunch of eggs. 
so at the Apple looking to 
do some package of eggs 
with small hand writing to 
makes the winner to 
be easy for the 
fill shelf to hold 
more shelf and it will ask
once more time until 
finishing.
I strongly disagree to plain packs because it will let fake & non-duty paid packs into the market. My customers will then be doubting my products.
Dear Sir,

If please places are instructed than my business will suffer greatly.

I strongly appeal to please please
in the wild.
PLAIN PACKAGING

I STRONGLY oppose for the plain packaging because people will not be able to recognize brands from each other and we will be losing business. Please do not do plain packs for this reason.
Dear Sir,

Please do not have plain packs on cigarettes as my business will be affected due to fake products on the market. Also, my customers will not trust me on my products whether they are real or not.

Thank you.

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I am writing in response to the formal consultation on plain packaging for tobacco products. I have been a newsagent who sells tobacco products as well for the last 27 years.

From my point of view, plain packaging has many drawbacks:

First of all, the government and the retailers will lose revenues while the criminals profit. Counterfeiting will be easier.

At the shop counter, the transactions will take longer with our backs turned towards the customers for longer periods.

Finding the correct products will take more time and now at 60 plus years of age, the eyesight is not as good as before.

I hope you take our views into account when making the decision on plain packaging.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt,

I am a retailer who does not want plain packaging due to the counterfeit and non-legal tobacco that is sold in my area. This affects my trade, and bringing out this new law will only make matters worse. Please will you listen to all as independent retailers; we only want to make a honest living.

Thank you.
Dear Jeremy Hunt, MP,

FORMAL CONSULTATION RESPONSE.

Despite already planning to introduce the display ban in April 2015, the government want to impose even more restrictions to further affect local business.

Removing brands on tobacco products will make it easier to counterfeit and undermine retailer’s legitimate trade.

Evidence from Australia where plain packing has been in place since 1 December 2012, recent data shows that 5.9 million more cigarettes were sold in Australia during the first year of plain packing of the tobacco products.

Australian association of convenience stores said that plain packaging has not reduced cigarette sales.
The KPMG research found that sales of illegal cigarettes has reached record levels, now accounting almost 14% of the market.

I strongly believe that the government should not go ahead with plain packing of tobacco products.
29th July 2014

Mr Jeremy Hunt MP

Dear Sir,

I am a convenience store retailer with the Lunnis Group generally known as "The Lunnis Retail Partnership" for over 27 years and during that time, 21 years as a Sub-postmaster. I have served the community at the address as above and have seen many changes with regard to the sale of tobacco products.

I write to inform you that I am against the proposals of plain packaging and all other ideas with regard to the sale of tobacco products. I suggest this as I can foresee that there will be an increase in the sale of illicit tobacco and that will have a detrimental effect to the revenue to Her Majesty's Government with regard to the loss of income from relevant taxes. Furthermore, I do believe that crime will increase not only from the older generation, but amongst the young population.

Please note my above comments as it remains a retailer's formal consultation response.

Yours Faithfully,

[Signature]

Director
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I am writing to you in order to display my strong opposition to new government legislation that will see all cigarette packaging revert to plain white, in response to formal consultations undergone in previous months.

Our business survives on a day to day basis by retailing high volumes of low margin stock. Cigarette sales have remained a constant source of income for us, ever since taking over the business just over six years ago. I feel the new legislation regarding the packaging of tobacco products will drastically reduce overall profits and infringe upon cash flow in a severely detrimental manner. We were very fortunate to come through the recent recession and have worked incredibly hard to get into a solid position to move the business forward once more. This new legislation will throw many businesses like us back into potential trouble financially which could have catastrophic knock-on effects for the families supported by them. Great emphasis was put on “kick starting the economy” after this difficult financial period by the government, yet this new legislation shows to everyone that there was no long term commitment to backing it up – yet another embarrassing government “U-turn”.

In particular in our business, we are lucky enough to interact with a very multi-cultural customer base. Many of these people do not speak English as a first language or what could be deemed as fluently. The way these loyal customers differentiate between certain brands and products varies, but on the whole it is done by packaging colour and design as it is a universal means of communication. By taking this option away from them, you are directly penalising both the customer and the retailer which will only result in a loss of turnover.

Time and again, small business owners are subjected to changes in government policy and laws; such is life. Most of these changes I believe to be necessary and agree with to a certain extent. This new legislation though, is quite frankly farcical. Using my experience working within this industry for the past thirty-five years, I see it having no positive effect whatsoever. The only possible outcome is a loss in business and more hardship for hard working people such as myself.

I strongly urge you to reconsider these ludicrous changes to legislation. It would be another case of government incompetence alienating yet more hard working members of an already disaffected and at times disgusted electorate. Never before has a government come under such scrutiny as in recent years with the expenses scandal and questionable wars springing immediately to mind. To respond by doing this can only lead to irrevocably poor conclusions for millions of people and is irrefutable evidence of further idiocy running through Westminster.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

An incensed, hard working retailer.
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP:

This is a formal consultation response,

I am a retailer who sells tobacco and am in opposition to the planned standardised plain packaging for many reasons:

It will fuel the black market of counterfeit tobacco. The illicit trade in smuggled tobacco already causes a deficit of £3.5 million to the Government every day and will only get worse. This is also very damaging to already struggling legitimate businesses.

There is no evidence to show that standardising the packaging will have any health benefits on the public. Arguments that this is the case are based on pure speculation and zero fact.

Plain packaging will make no difference to underage smoking. The public do not smoke because of a brightly coloured packet, they do so because they can and/or enjoy it.

The tobacco ban has not even been fully implemented yet and more restrictions are being put in place. Furthermore, all packs will soon be covered up by the display ban - therefore, plain packaging seems rather redundant.

Plain packaging will not deter people from smoking. The public smoke according to their personal taste, requirements and desire - Standardised packaging will make it harder for customers to recognise the brands and increase serving time, which will be detrimental to both businesses and customers, as they become irritated.

With so many different brands existing in the tobacco market, standardised packaging will make it harder for business owners to differentiate between the brands, and therefore when selling, will result in their packs being turned away from the rest of the premises for even longer.

Regards,
Dear Jeremy Hunt,

This is a formal consultation response.

As one of our constituents, I am writing this letter to express my opposition to the proposal of plain (standardised) packaged tobacco products. Alongside myself, this proposal creates concern for other Newsagents owners, as well as further problems within society as you attempt to solve the problem of underage smoking.

The fact that smoking rates still remain at an increasing level considering the implementation of picture packaging in September 2012 in order to deter smokers suggests the lack of influence packaging has on smoking rates.

Furthermore through such a proposal, there would be an increased risk of theft, organised crimes and assaults on Newsagents like ourselves. With more effort being put into searching for cigarettes under customers' requests (given plain packaging), we increase the opportunity of the above crimes and reduce our customer satisfaction as customers become impatient and agitated.

Through the implementation of standardised packaging on tobacco, there would be a lower barrier for counterfeit products to be manufactured and imported into the UK. Hence further Black Markets issues.

Although your intentions are for the benefit of this society, and as much as we respect and promote your decisions towards this matter, we believe the above proposal would create more problems for Family-Owned Businesses and Newsagents (than its ability to solve the problem of smoking especially underage smoking). We hope this letter helps you understand our consequences to your actions.

Regards.
Mr Kenneth Clarke  /  JEREMY HUNT  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA  

17th January 2014 

Dear Mr Clarke, 

I feel forced to write to you to highlight my concern regarding the prospect of plain packaging on cigarettes being introduced in the UK. As someone who has run a convenience store for 25 years and who engages on a daily basis with smokers I find the whole idea quite offensive. It appears to me that certain members of the Government/health lobby are totally out of touch with the public.

A policy like plain packaging would have obvious consequences that could be detrimental to both retailers like me, the public and also the Government. In my opinion we would see the following:

- A massive increase in the trade of illicit cigarettes.
- A loss of tax revenue in a time when HMRC needs every penny.
- Small retailers laying people off and in extreme cases closing down. 
  Please note, two of my neighbouring retailers have recently ceased trading.
- A large future burden on the NHS because of the effects of people smoking counterfeit cigarettes that are made of rat poison, asbestos or some other poison.
- Criminals making huge profits.
- The Government having to pay billions of pounds compensation to the tobacco companies.

I fully understand the need to tackle smoking, however in the same way that alcohol abuse and obesity are massive public health issues we need to ensure that we educate people especially children. The worse thing we could do is to force the habit "underground".

I know you are a very busy man but I would be interested in understanding your position on the topic.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

**PROPOSED PLAIN PACKAGING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

The proposed change to tobacco products that your government is proposing is absolutely ridiculous.

As seems to be the norm, independent local retailers are to suffer.

The following points are my concerns:

- More regulations after the hassle of covering garments
- The warnings on packets already cover 65% of pack
- Where is the government support to local retailers?
- Finding correct brand will become a task for staff
- No supportive findings from Australian legislation
- Illicit trade will increase, funding criminals/terrorists/swear shop factories etc

I would like to strongly object to the government proposal on this issue and hopefully you will see sense.
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

As an Independent Retailer I would like to intimate my objection to the Governments proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products.

We have as a trade been subjected to numerous changes within the tobacco category over past few years and like all my colleagues within trade we have adhered to those changes and have certainly seen our business suffer.

This new proposal is just another piece of legislation that will ensure that the independent trade suffer with the large multi-store companies gaining yet again from government support.

Plain packaging will increase the illicit trade that is without question.

In summary I as an independent retailer strongly object to the introduction of plain packaging as it will have a detrimental effect on my business.
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

**PROPOSED PLAIN PACKAGING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

The proposed change to tobacco products that your government is proposing is absolutely ridiculous.

As seems to be the norm, independent local retailers are to suffer.

The following points are main concerns for me:

- More restrictions after the hassle of covering gables
- The warnings on packets already cover 65% of pack
- Where is the government support to local retailers?
- Finding correct brand will become a task for staff.
- No supportive finidings from Australian legislation
- Illicit trade will increase, funding criminals/terrorism/sweat shop factories etc.

I would like to strongly object to the government proposal on this issue and hopefully you will see sense.
31st July 2014

Re: Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

To whom it may concern,

As an Independent retailer, I wish it to be known that I am totally against Tobacco Plain Packaging.

As of April 2015, we will no longer be able to display tobacco products, this in itself is going to cause considerable increases in serving times, without making it more difficult to locate the product by making them all look the same, thus making my business more vulnerable to theft.

We enforce a strong NID policy on underage sales, as do the majority of retailers. Underage smokers can still access tobacco products from the counterfeit and non UK duty paid supplies, perhaps if you put as much effort into controlling the sale of illegal product we would see a reduction in the sale of these products within the illicit market.

As far as I am aware, evidence from countries that have already implemented this policy, have proven that the implementation of plain packaging has not delivered the planned decreases in either the number of smokers or consumption levels.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

As an independent retailer I would like to intimate my objection to the Government's proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products.

We have as a trade been subjected to numerous changes within the tobacco category over past few years and like all my colleagues within trade we have adhered to those changes and have certainly seen our business suffer.

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Plain packaging will increase the illicit trade that is without question.

In summary I as an independent retailer strongly object to the introduction of plain packaging as it will have a detrimental affect on my business.
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I am writing in response to the plain paper consultation. I am against the implementation of plain paper for the following reasons.

With plain papers, there will be much unauthorised transmission of documents, and once our sources turned the find the plain, there will be more opportunity for producers from my area to use.

I am also concerned that by removing demand from cigarettes it will make it easier for criminals to counterfeit, and will lead to an increase in smuggled goods, and loss of trade for my business.

Yours Faithfully,
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

This is a formal consultation response.

Me and my family have been in the retail business for 37yrs and have owned over 9 shops in this period. Our family has built a reputation in these years onrunning a strict business, this includes the sales of cigarettes to minors and have always realised the seriousness of this.

As a retailer this new legislation can easily have a detrimental affect on business. Cigarettes make up a big portion of our turnover and also creates overhead which small businesses rely on, so this will affect our business tremendously.

We would also have to put extra money into training staff and again it would be another burden on us the retailers in ongoing tax that is getting more and more difficult.

People are well aware of the risks of smoking and these plain packs are totally unnecessary and will have no affect what so ever as proven in Australia.

Again this will have no affect on the consumer only the retailer, the Government is supposed to be helping small business but instead is making our lives more difficult.

Small business provide services, create jobs and are very much needed in Communities but they unnecessary legislation are making it even more for us to survive.

I look forward to hearing a positive response from you.

Yours
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

This is a formal consultation response from me, an independent retailer.

I am completely against the idea of tobacco products in plain packaging because I believe this will affect sales massively due to increased illicit trade. If less people visit my store to buy tobacco products, this will also affect footfall sales of other products meaning less profit. The industry is hard enough without added restrictions.

Plain packaging is an unnecessary piece of legislation as health warnings will increase to 65% of the pack under the EU Tobacco Products Directive.
Tobacco Packs Consultation
Dept of Health
7th Floor
Wellington House
133 – 139 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 1UG

31 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

RE: Retailers Formal Consultation Response to Plain Packaging

I am retailer in the independent retailer sector. I wish to lodge my formal consultation response against plain packaging for the following reasons.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers, the display ban has not even come in for small shops and the Government want to impose even more restrictions. The EU Tobacco Products Directive comes into effect in May 2016; this will ban packs of cigarettes of less than 20 sticks and all RYO under 80g. These larger packs will mean consumers will need to make fewer purchases per week, therefore reducing footfall.

Plain packaging is an unnecessary additional piece of regulation, as health warnings will already increase to 65% of the pack under the EU Tobacco Products Directive. The Government is supposed to be supporting small shops, instead they are just trying to impose even more red tape and placing an additional burden on retailers. Costs of training staff will only increase if plain packaging is introduced.

The Government is wrong to claim that the retailer will "benefit" from a decrease in transaction times. Serving a customer where all the packs are the same colour and the writing so small will take much longer than for a branded pack.

Removing brands will make products easier to counterfeit and undermine a retailer's legitimate trade. The illegal trade in tobacco is already a problem in the UK, by introducing plain packaging the Government is making it easier for criminals to operate.

Criminals do not care about age, those that deal in illicit tobacco are responsible for supplying to those who are under age.

It is in BOTH of our interests to eliminate illicit trade. If I sell more legitimate tobacco the government earns more in tax!

Kind regards,
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a retailer who sells tobacco and I am opposed to the standardization of tobacco packaging. I fully believe this extra restriction on selling tobacco will have no added benefit.

Firstly counterfeit tobacco products, which already have a big effect on my sales, will increase dramatically just as in Australia.

Secondly this new legislation is being discussed before the implementation of the tobacco display ban. We must wait for this to come into force before we discuss any further legislation. This will not be productive or fair on traders to add another layer of legislation.

Thirdly my customers will have to spend an enormous amount of time waiting to be served.

Thank you for reading this letter.
I am very much against this policy.

Apart from the very obvious impact on my business, the policy will become a blueprint for the smuggler's charter.

Packaging will become much easier to copy. The tobacco market will become even more deregulated than it is now.

When I first started trading 31 years ago, there were no less than 8 other convenience stores trading within an 8 mile radius. Now, there are only 2 plus two other shops. If we disappear, then who is there to regulate underage smoking in the area? Furthermore, it has been proved in Australia that the concept is an unmitigated failure!
Dear Sir/Madam

I am a retailer who sells tobacco, and I am opposed to the standardization of tobacco packaging. I fully believe the extra restrictions on selling tobacco will have no added benefit.

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Thirdly my customers will have to spend an enormous amount of time waiting to be served.

Thank you for reading this letter.
The Retailers Formal Consultation Response

Dear Honourable Jeremy Hunt MP,

I have been informed that there are plans to enforce Legislation for standardised packaging on tobacco & cigarettes. I understand around 200,000 children start smoking every year in the UK according to British Lung Foundation. Children start smoking because of attraction and want to look adult. It's a visual image from the brain. Not attraction by packaging. They also start smoking because of irresponsible parents and society. We must enforce standardised social structure and tougher laws to prevent children from buying and smoking. A dedicated team who only ensures the prevention of children obtaining cigarettes from the shops would be a better solution. Even further more how about the personal moral responsibility from the shopkeepers and the society locally and nation wide. Increase awareness of harm of smoking amongst children through schools also would help to tackle this problem. Packaging never would make a difference in the numbers of smokers. If we are really looking for cure rather than a solution then I would suggest a ban on manufacturers of tobacco and a ban on smoking. Our economy structure is not capable of surviving by loosing £12 billion per year revenue. Instead, introducing a legislation to ban Nicotine and a cocktail of 4000 chemicals added in the tobacco which cause the addiction and the cancer would help the economy; NHS and the 100,000 preventable deaths a year. And Smokers enjoy a healthy smoke, economy thrives and more revenue for the government. I also feel that democracy failed yet again by telling me not to show loyalty. We show loyalty to brands, names, schools, businesses, products and endless list goes on. So how is it fair for anyone to show loyalty to a particular political party? By Standardise we achieve nothing but penalising few, tobacco company and economy. I hope this will change your view on standardised packaging. Thank you for your patience and taking your invaluable time to read this letter.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

20/07/2014
Jeremy Hunt

July 2014

Dear Jeremy,

Plain packaging on cigarettes will have a terrible financial impact on our stores. Easier to be counterfeit.

Take larger for staff to smoke.

Compulsory for customers.

Try help small businesses not make it more difficult.
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

Re Plain Packaging Consultation Response

As a retailer in a working mens environment not having packets of 10 cigarettes will put a strain on finance, money will have to go to internet sites. Smokers seem to view this as the Table.

Most people have very expensive e-cigarettes and think they will be cheaper. Cigarette houses are not used and more people will look for cheaper cigarettes from the illegal sources as they will not look any different from legal ones.

This proposed change will not help small retailers like myself in these difficult times. Yours in anticipation
Standards Preceding Lessons

Dear Mr. Hint Ms.

As an Alexandria Center. That relies on nothing else, there are a few concerns I would like to bring to your attention.

- Another larger retail chain to replace you
- A similar scene in the East
- Enthic will have 65% of the pack
- You will be in health underway
- You will be giving free lean to conserve
- You will come more with concern product

The revenue is much to be desired. Small steps, but instead trying to impress less than on the business.

Thank
30th July 2014

Dear Mr. J. White,

The Plain Packaging Consultation is yet another
issue for retailers, plain packaging is an
unnecessary additional piece of regulation
that I hope will lead to easier to consume
plain packs. Some packs do not vary much
to add as they are, whilst others
like mine, work very hard to ensure that
privacy is maintained to anyone under 18.

Yours sincerely,
To whom it may concern,

I am writing to inform you about the clear disagreement of the way the government is going about its plain packaging campaign.

It may come as a surprise to most people but this packaging does very little to influence the amount to purchase the tobacco. People who intend to purchase the tobacco will do so regardless of the packaging. The packaging will only have a direct impact on the government and retailers directly.

It will prevent more illegal trade of tobacco with the much simpler packaging to copy, thus will reduce retail sales and increase illegal activity.

I fully respect your intentions if you feel the police don’t have any work to do so you feel the urgency to remove their workload. But you are simply digging a deeper grave for yourselves and the local tax paying citizens.

I hope you come to the realisation of your errors sooner rather than later.

With deep regards,
To whom it may concern,

I am writing regarding the current legislation for plain packaging of tobacco products.
I am an independent retailer and have been trading for 12 years so I am experienced in the trade. I believe the legislation to place tobacco in plain packaging will damage sales within my business and also impact heavily on service time to customers.

On top of the retail display ban, I strongly believe that illicit trade will increase as people look for cheaper, quicker, easier options to purchase.

We are selling a legal product, only to customers of age, and those choosing to smoke. Covering up and removing branding will not impact on the customer decisions, but will impact the way I have to trade daily.

Tobacco is hard enough without any further complications that are in my, and many others opinion unnecessarily. I hope you see sense and do not continue with the proposed plain packaging legislation.

Sincerely,
20th July 2014

Dear [Name],

I am totally against the plain packaging scheme which I feel is going to affect my business and put a strain on my customers. It will only make it easier for criminals to counterfeit plain packaging and while shopkeepers myself work long hours to make an honest living, with the ban also coming place next year on displaying cigarettes it will hit my business sales. So I strongly suggest to the government to see some sense for this move.

Yours sincerely,
Dear [Name],

I am writing this short note to ask my concern over the proposed statistical package.

I have highlighted why it will not make adequate use of this generation.

- Currently, I am a student who struggles with running my business, it's hard work.

- The logistics will only benefit those states who are not concerned about making a profit, not the!!

- It will increase non-utility investor and will increase rates of customer's page.

- Think about this!

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
RE PLAIN PACKAGING CONSULTATION

I am totally against the proposition of plain packaging for the reasons below.

- Counterfeit cigarettes sales will increase.
- My customers will be frustrated with all the confusion.
- It hasn't worked very well in Australia.
- So why in the U.K.?

Yours sincerely,
30th August 2014

TOBACCO PACKAGING CONSULTATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

3rd Floor

Whitehall House

82-102 Whitehall PL

London

SE1 1DB

Sir

RE: "STAMFORD HILL TOBACCO PACKAGING CONSULTATION 2014"

This is a formal response to the above consultation.

I am totally against the proposal as this will incur more issues to my shop and will not benefit customers to smoke as we are seeing in Australia.

People continue to purchase packed cigarettes as the price looks low and the health warning does not make any difference whatsoever. Possible steps in front of cigarette will not make any difference.

My main concern is that customers may start to abuse my customers if all packs leave the same.

1) My customers will buy cheaper cigarettes (if price fixed) as less revenue and less profit.

2) I urge that this is not a massive concern in the UK. Plain packs will encourage counterfeit, therefore, less sales for me.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Sirs,

I am writing to clarify certain aspects regarding the Standardized Packaging Constraint.

It is my understanding that the pricing is not held constant but adjusted for various factors.

I appreciate the effort in providing a detailed explanation on this point.

Another issue that arises is the uncertainty in the final price. It is not clear how the cost is split among the different components. Could you provide a breakdown?

Also, I would like to see evidence of the past standardized pricing to compare with.

Sincerely,

Yours Truly
31st July 2014

Re: Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

To whom it may concern,

As an independent retailer, I wish it to be known that I am totally against Tobacco Plain Packaging.

As of April 2015, we will no longer be able to display tobacco products; this in itself is going to cause considerable increases in serving times, without making it more difficult to locate the product by making them all look the same, thus making my business more vulnerable to theft.

We enforce a strong No ID policy on underage sales, as do the majority of retailers. Underage smokers can still access tobacco products from the counterfeit and non UK duty paid supplies, perhaps if you put as much effort into controlling the sale of illegal product we would see a reduction in the sale of these products within the illicit market.

As far as I am aware, evidence from countries that have already implemented this policy, have proven that the implementation of plain packaging has not delivered the planned decreases in either the number of smokers or consumption levels.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Sir,

I am a small convenience store in Tynal Park Court located and am writing to you regarding the plain packaging of cigarettes. I understand there is going to be a consultation on this.

I am writing because I am really worried. I am probably not already our sales have plummeted, and we’re having to go down to the drab in cigarettes.

As it is now, we have to restock twice before we have to restock. We are selling them to us. We really think it’s time to remember where the smoke load inhaled. We’d like everyone to come back and we’d be happy to shop the smoke.

Although we have lost our sales, we are still concerned that plain packaging will ultimately hurt the smoker to turn to illegal trade and sell it in pubs and clubs when
there is no restrictions for who buys and sells, will lead to lost revenue, not only for the city, but also the state in taxes. Together, we will see what.

Also, I feel that by making a commodity, a food product, a food packaging, it represents a NANNY STATE which is too much. The Adult Consumer is increasingly treated as a child who would not be able to make an informed decision for themselves. For Smoker Protection Directives have already read on the display, and women who are present on the public places, also. The new European directive which will make all manufacturers to cover 65% of the risks we will have to

I am also not concerned regard the ETC. Smoking, since the government is telling once the pack are standardized, I will also put a new procedure for all products such as filters and combustion. I also understood the confusion in the next letter.

It is also very easy for you at least 1% of time to make up new rules without even trying to see them. In 1%.

It is also very easy for you, my politicians, to come up with these ideas, but how do you know that it works in a real-world idea? See the range of products and all look th
Somehow you could identify him, not so much as a neighbour or a friend, always different colours and making some product, actually makes it for retailers to go at a glance know what he produces. They can go to a supermarket and just see the cut sheet and they can all come and see if you can get the places, but I don't understand the tune at the same time.

We also do not want the children to see us. feel the outside world in a close for the and we have no objection to the first person, you close up in the present scale to -

Three children of the world. I should meet. for educational, social, and for the official trade or certificated trade, which is now present in public schools.

Thank you for the time to read my cases.

Your Sincerely,
Dear Mr Hunt MP,

I am totally 100% against Plain Packaging which will have another damaging effect on the independent trade. With tobacco going dark fairly soon and it is total unnecessary and will only make illegal trade more common.

I hope the government sees sense into this totally unwanted move.
Dear Jeremy Hunt,

We oppose the plain packaging of tobacco as it is a large percentage of our business. We are a small convenience store and rely heavily on this trade to keep it going. It would be catastrophic for our business. We are very careful not to sell tobacco or any age-related products to minors; all our staff are fully trained in this.

In our opinion plain packaging will not deter anyone from purchasing tobacco; it will only make it more appealing, particularly to minors as they will see it as a challenge. Most children coming into our shop are more interested in sweets and toys and do not even notice the tobacco display. The plan to ban packs of less than 20 will take the price out of pocket money range so minors will not be able to afford them.

It is already bad enough having to put shutters on our tobacco without the unnecessary addition of plain packaging, which will take even more of our time, extra training for our staff and more expense to businesses to serve customers, we already work long enough hours, typically 12 hours a day without having to put in more because of this action.

To implement this action would simply drive tobacco underground and open the flood gates for even more illicit trade, which is already accepted by the government as a large drain on revenue.

We make very little profit on tobacco which is already heavily taxed. We would just like to carry on selling LEGAL Tobacco to our adult customers.

We small shops need SUPPORT from the government not MORE RESTRICTIONS.

Yours sincerely,
Plain Packaging Consultation Response

Dear Mr Hunt MP,

I am writing to address my concerns regarding the proposal of plain packaging on tobacco products.

Working in the convenience sector is very demanding and difficult, without our taxes being used to fund such ridiculous ideas which in my opinion are not sustainable on a working platform.

However, we do our best to adhere to government policy on tobacco, but I feel this is a step too far. As a local trader we find difficulties in dealing with the local illicit trade of tobacco and I feel this will only help such individuals in this illegal trade.

These measures which are being taken are in the wrong, ineffective and I feel our resources should be focused on illegal products within the drug trade which do a lot more harm to users and the immediate society in which they live.

I hope you see my views to come to the sensible conclusion and don't bring the plain packaging legislation into force.

Yours Sincerely
29/07/2014

To whom so ever it may concern

I am writing to you in connection with the proposed plain packaging of tobacco products as it would fuel the black market in counterfeit and smuggled tobacco as seen already in Australia. It will also frustrate my customers as it will take me longer to source them.

Kind regards
Dear Jeremy Hunt M.P.,

I am writing with regard to plain packaging.

I am strongly against this as it will affect my business and increase illegal tobacco.

Please do not go through with this.

Yours sincerely,
31 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

RE: Retailers Formal Consultation Response to Plain Packaging

I am retailer in the independent retailer sector. I wish to lodge my formal consultation response against plain packaging for the following reasons.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers; the display ban has not even come in for small shops and the Government want to impose even more restrictions. The EU Tobacco Products Directive comes into effect in May 2016; this will ban packs of cigarettes of less than 20 sticks and all RYO under 30g. These larger packs will mean consumers will need to make fewer purchases per week, therefore reducing footfall.

Plain packaging is an unnecessary additional piece of regulation, as health warnings will already increase to 65% of the pack under the EU Tobacco Products Directive. The Government is supposed to be supporting small shops; instead they are just trying to impose even more red-tape and placing an additional burden on retailers. Costs of training staff will only increase if plain packaging is introduced.

The Government is wrong to claim that the retailer will “benefit” from a decrease in transaction times. Serving a customer when all the packs are the same colour and the writing so small will take much longer than for a branded pack.

Removing brands will make products easier to counterfeit and undermine a retailer’s legitimate trade. The illegal trade in tobacco is already a problem in the UK; by introducing plain packaging the Government is making it easier for criminals to operate.

Criminals do not care about age; those that deal in illicit tobacco are responsible for supplying to those who are under age.

It is in BOTH of our interests to eliminate illicit trade. If I sell more legitimate tobacco the government earns more in tax.

Kind regards,
23/7/14

Ref: Formal Consultation Response

Dear: [Name]

As a small retailer I am opposed to the plain packaging that is being proposed. There are already enough demands being put on our business and this will result in even more training for our staff.

As tobacco is a large part of our business, I feel you are encouraging consumers to buy from illegal sources where there is no regulation.

The fact you are also reducing the number of packets will not help us at all.

Yours Sincerely
DEAR SERGIO HUNT,

IN RELATION TO STANDARDISED TOBACCO
PACKAGING, I AM OPPOSED TO THIS COMING
TO FRUITION AS IT WILL FUEL THE BLACK
MARKET, FRUSTRATE MY CUSTOMERS, AND MORE
RESTRICTION TO THE SALES OF TOBACCO
PRODUCTS. IT WILL ALSO HAVE A
DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON MY BUSINESS
AND FAMILY.

YOURS Sincerely,

[Signature]
Dear Sir,

I am writing to raise concerns about the possible increase in "black market" sales of tobacco products that already exist.

The possibility of the public smoking without being observed and confronting themselves in a "shady/tobacco retailer" black market increasing undermine increases as was created by the decision.
24 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

RE: Consultation on Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products

The reason I am writing this letter is to object against the Government's decision about considering to change Tobacco products to plain packaging.

I and my family have been in the retail industry for over 40 years and we think it is an unnecessary additional piece of regulation.

Our current workload is all on a daily basis and all the new change and the cost of training staff will only decrease if plain packaging is B introduced which is a waste of money and time.

If the change goes ahead it would be easier for the Blackmarket to counterfeit and undermine a retailers legitimate trade.

By looking at the statistics from Australia I since the change 67% of retailers say that growth of the black market has had an impact.
Dear Jeremy Hunt,

This is a formal consultation response. Plain packet pricing will be a burden on my business due to an increase in illicit trade. Likely to downwards pressure on margins for retailers.

Yours sincerely,
To whom it may concern,

From the recent event's regarding plain packaging consultation I am writing to voice my opinion why I believe it is not a very well thought out idea.

I agree that packs should not be glamorous to encourage kids to take up smoking; this is about education in the home not in the store. Parents should advise their own kids at home about the pitfalls of taking up smoking.

Furthermore I feel the black market trade may increase, non-UK duty paid and illicit whites will see an increase.

I think more can be done in researching the pros and cons before any decision is made by the UK government.

Yours sincerely,
31st July 2014

Tobacco packs consultation

Department of Health

7th floor

Wellington Road

London

SE1 8UG

Dear Sir,

As a small retailer I am concerned what impact standardised packaging will have on the day to day running of my shop. We agree that the increasing of the age from 16 to 18 was a positive move helping us distinguish better our younger aged customers.

I feel the introduction of plain packaging will just mean a harder working environment for both the customer and the shop keeper, for example if a customer wants a particular cigarette brand he or she will have to hold the sliding cover doors open for longer so they can make their choice.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

[Post Office Address]
Dear Jeremy Hunt

With regard to the plain packaging consultation, we believe this will be another burden on our businesses.

The introduction of plain packs will have far-reaching consequences for us, such as a reduction in footfall due to illicit tobacco trading soaring which would lead to a reduction in revenue for our business and lower margins if all packs look the same.

The government is supporting our business however they are just trying to impose more Red Tape.

Yours Sincerely,
DEAR JEREMY HUNT MP

THIS IS A FORMAL CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO THE PLAIN PACKAGING OF CIGARETTES.

THE PROPOSED PLAIN PACKAGING OF CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO COMBINED WITH THE ALREADY INTRODUCED SLIDING DOORS ON THE CIGARETTE CANTERIES IS GOING TO HAVE A DESTROYING EFFECT ON OUR CORE BUSINESS.

IT IS GOING TO TAKE LONGER TO SERVE CUSTOMERS AS WE ARE GOING TO MAKE SURE CUSTOMER HAS BEEN GIVEN WHAT THEY ASKED FOR, BECAUSE ALL CIGARETTES ARE GOING TO LOOK THE SAME AND IF WE ARE OUT OF A PARTICULAR BRAND HE WONT KNOW FOR SURE WHAT BRANDS WE HAVE IN STOCK THIS CREATING MORE DELAY WITH THE LIKELYHOOD OF THE CUSTOMER GETTING ANGRY OR LEAVING THE SHOP WITHOUT BUYING ANYTHING.

IT IS ALSO GOING TO MAKE IT A LOT EASIER FOR THOSE WHO SELL COUNTERFEIT CIGARETTES, AND THIS IS A PROBLEM IN OUR AREA, BECAUSE PLAIN PACKS ARE GOING TO MORE EASILY MADE.

I DO THINK THAT NOT MUCH THOUGHT HAS GONE INTO THIS HAIRBRAINED PROPOSAL. WE KNOW ALL ABOUT THE EFFECTS SMOKERS HAVE ON THE NHS, BUT WE TEND TO FORGET HOW MUCH MONEY THEY GENERATE FOR THE GOVERNMENT. AS WE ALREADY PAY A LOT OF TAX TO PAY FOR THE BENEFIT."WE ARE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO PAY MORE"

WHY DON'T WE GO THE WHOLE HOG AND GET PLAIN PACKAGING ON OTHER HARMFUL PRODUCTS LIKE ALCOHOL, CHOCOLATE, SUGAR, SALT AND FLAVOURING. THE COMPANIES SELLING CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO ARE SELLING A LEGITIMATE PRODUCT SO WHY SHOULDN'T THEY BE THE ONES SINGLED OUT TO HAVE TO CHANGE THEIR PACKAGING.

I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR REPLY

YOURS SINCERELY
29th July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I am making a formal consultation response to plain packaging for cigarettes. I strongly disagree with this proposal and think that it will have a negative effect on my business. I have been a retailer for over 15 years and have seen many changes come and go but these new ones are going to place a huge strain on my business.

Having cigarettes covered from public view is going to be bad enough but plain packaging brings all kinds of problems with it. The time it will take for staff to find a product will be increased making the time it takes to serve a customer increase. This also means that the staff will be spending more time with their backs turned looking for cigarettes, making it easier for shoplifters to take advantage of their distraction. People who don’t smoke will resent the time it takes to make their purchase and go elsewhere. Keeping check on stock will also take longer and mistakes will obviously be made if everything looks the same so it is going to cost me money to rectify these mistakes. The problem of counterfeiting also gets worse as it will be easier to reproduce plain packaging, this will take away more sales as these cheap cigarettes flood the market.

I seriously hope that you reconsider this proposal.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I am writing this formal letter in response to the consultation on plain packaging.

The reason for this letter is I believe that plain packaging will have a negative effect on this business due to several reasons:

1. It will lead to a reduction in footfall, caused by counterfeit packs becoming easier to produce.
2. Longer transaction times, caused by all packets looking the same/similar.

Thank you for your time reading this.

Regards,

[Signature]

Store Manager
Dear Sir Jeremy Hunt,

I am writing to you regarding the new plain packaging on cigarettes. I believe that this would not be a good thing whatsoever first because of illegal cigarettes flooding our streets and neighbourhoods costing the government billions more in lost revenue as plain packaging would be easier to copy for these fraudsters. I live in an area that has a lot of fake cigarettes and duty free cigarettes circulating at any one time. I think plain packaging will increase this illegal market and make it grow which will destroy the government's control over the cigarette market. The illegal cigarette sales are not monitored like shops are which is safer as we have age restrictions which have to be met.

Secondly, it will make my life a lot harder as a shopkeeper as to searching through the gantry to find the right cigarettes for a customer.

Thank you for your time.
To Whom It May Concern,

I am an independent retailer.

Once again I find it incredible that both the UK and Scottish governments can blindly propose ludicrous, badly thought unsubstantiated proposals to introduce tobacco plain packaging. Not only is this a badly flawed plan that will affect my business but it is playing into the hands of bootleggers who pay no tax whatsoever.

The independent retail trade do not lightly undertake any sale to underage children who I am sure get their cigarettes from the black market mentioned earlier.

Please note, there is no profit in selling cigarettes as you have taxed them to the hilt. All we want is the ability to sell a legal product to our eligible customers.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I am an independent retailer and I am writing to express my concern into the proposal of plain packaging. I am totally against this proposal for the following reasons:

- The EU has already introduced pack size reduction so the minimum available to buy will be 20 cigarettes and 30g rolling tobacco.
- April 6th 2015 the RHA becomes active and therefore all the tobacco products will be covered for the general public to see so why the need to also convert the packaging to plain packets?
- Another EU regulation states that 65% of the packaging will need to be covered with health warnings.
- The cost of training staff with all the new procedures is costly that is without the addition of plain packaging on top of this.
- More people will turn to the black market which is already a daily battle we as retailers face without the help of the Government to make it easier for criminals.
- We pay taxes and the counterfeit market does not.

I am totally against the proposal for plain packaging.

Regards
31 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

RE: Retailers Formal Consultation Response to Plain Packaging

I am retailer in the independent retailer sector. I wish to lodge my formal consultation response against plain packaging for the following reasons.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers; the display ban has not even come in for small shops and the Government want to impose even more restrictions. The EU Tobacco Products Directive comes into effect in May 2016; this will ban packs of cigarettes of less than 20 sticks and all RYO under 30g. These larger packs will mean consumers will need to make fewer purchases per week, therefore reducing footfall.

Plain packaging is an unnecessary additional piece of regulation, as health warnings will already increase to 65% of the pack under the EU Tobacco Products Directive. The Government is supposed to be supporting small shops; instead they are just trying to impose even more red-tape and placing an additional burden on retailers. Costs of training staff will only increase if plain packaging is introduced.

The Government is wrong to claim that the retailer will “benefit” from a decrease in transaction times. Serving a customer when all the packs are the same colour and the writing so small will take much longer than for a branded pack.

Removing brands will make products easier to counterfeit and undermine a retailer’s legitimate trade. The illegal trade in tobacco is already a problem in the UK, by introducing plain packaging the Government is making it easier for criminals to operate.

Criminals do not care about age, those that deal in illicit tobacco are responsible for supplying to those who are under age.

It is in BOTH of our interests to eliminate illicit trade. If I sell more legitimate tobacco the government earns more in tax!

I strongly suggest you obtain proper evidence to substantiate your claims.

Kind regards,
In regards to the standardised tobacco packaging consultation 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt,

I [redacted] as a retailer who sells tobacco find myself to be opposed to standard/plain packaging. For the following reasons, because it would frustrate my customers as I need to spend more time serving them due to the need to try and figure out which tobacco is which. Also this change will fuel the black market in counterfeit and smuggled tobacco. As has been the effect in Australia. As it currently stands already up to 16% of cigarettes consumed in the UK are not bought in UK retail, and this will only get worse. Finally this change will add more restrictions. The tobacco display ban has not been implemented yet. Europe has just decided to ban packs of fewer than 20 cigarettes, packs of less than 30g of tobacco and menthol cigarettes.

Sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt,

I am a small retailer who sells tobacco and I am opposed to standardised/plain packaging as it would:

- Impact on my business
- Encourage more smuggling
- Take more time to serve customers

Please consider the impact this will have on our business.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

This is a formal consultation response, on behalf of a successful busy city centre Newsagent with an annual turnover with the excess of £300,000, which is 65% cigarettes and tobacco. The introduction of plain packaging would be a burden on all retailers as we are already being imposed with display ban in Apr 2015. Further staff training would have to increase, customers would move to cheaper branded products as all products look the same. This would lead to loss in margins for retailers. Also familiar brand identity would make it easier to counteract organised, the UK already has an illegal trade problem and this will only increase as it will be easier for criminals to operate. We completely oppose plain packaging. Thank you for your response.

Kind regards,

Shop Keeper

24/7/2014
Dear Sir,

In response to the government proposed plain cigarette package consultation, I wish to voice my objections. Apart from the extra work load this will cause it leaves itself wide open to abuse and regards on an even larger scale than at present. The knock on effect will be even more damage to the health of those who do smoke and an increased burden on the NHS.

On the monetary side the revenue from cigarette sales will reduce leading to increases in other taxation to replace the lost cash.

Please think again before implementing this very damaging proposal.

Yours Faithfully
30 August, 2014

TABLEAUX OBSERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
7TH FLOOR
WASHINGTON HOUSE
1330 135TH WORCESTER RD
LENEXA
66214-1600

STANDARDIZED TABLEAU PREVENTIVE CONSIDERATION 2014

DEAR TREASURY HUNTER,

This is a formal communication response to your proposal. I own a small independent business and I am trying to make a living out of it.

I don't have much extra experience as it is since I've been in business to serve my customers.

I am very concerned about the availability and increased costs of tobacco because for me:

Plaintiffs will need more access to the potential loss of revenue due to illegal cigarettes on the street, but will not reduce the amount of cigarettes my customers smoke.

Yours faithfully,
29th August 2014

TOBACCO PACKAGING CONSULTATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

7th Floor

WELLINGTON HOUSE

133-135 WATFORD ROAD

LONDON

NW1 9HE

STANDARDIZE TOBACCO PACKAGING CONSULTATION 2014

Dear Secretary Hunt MP

This is a formal consultation response to the proposal.

I would like to express my concerns about the introduction of plain packaging to the UK and the negative impact this will have on the business like mine.

The government is supposed to be supportive of small businesses, instead you are placing an additional burden on companies.

My customers will stop buying. Researching of a packet of cigarettes is painful and/or boring. It will just confuse me and will take longer to serve. The Brave My Susanna has asked for customers will be likely to continue to buy from abroad. If ALL packs look the same the market volume will decrease and the counterfeits cigarettes will be on the increase, no doubt.

All I am asking is see you to reconsider the proposal.

And think about the negative impact on businesses like mine.

Yours faithfully

[Handwritten text covered]
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

Re: Plain Packaging Consultation Response

As a retailer in a working class community, not having packs of 10 cigarettes will put a burden on finances, money will buy cigarettes to smoke sooner than food for the family.

Most people have buy Economy cigarettes and Duty Free from "Cigarette Houses" more and more people will look for cheaper cigarettes from the illegal sources as they will not keep any different from legal ones.

The proposed change will not help small retailers like myself in these difficult times.

Yours in anticipation
Mr Kenneth Clarke / JEREMY HUNT
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Clarke / JEREMY HUNT,

I feel forced to write to you to highlight my concern regarding the prospect of plain packaging on cigarettes being introduced in the UK. As someone who has run a convenience store for 25 years and who engages on a daily basis with smokers I find the whole idea quite offensive. It appears to me that certain members of the Government/health lobby are totally out of touch with the public.

A policy like plain packaging would have obvious consequences that could be detrimental to both retailers like me, the public and also the Government. In my opinion we would see the following:

- A massive increase in the trade of illicit cigarettes.
- A loss of tax revenue in a time when HMRC needs every penny.
- Small retailers laying people off and in extreme cases closing down. Please note, two of my neighbouring retailers have recently ceased trading.
- A large future burden on the NHS because of the effects of people smoking counterfeit cigarettes that are made of rat poison, asbestos or some other poison.
- Criminals making huge profits.
- The Government having to pay billions of pounds compensation to the tobacco companies.

I fully understand the need to tackle smoking, however in the same way that alcohol abuse and obesity are massive public health issues we need to ensure that we educate people especially children. The worse thing we could do is to force the habit "underground".

I know you're a very busy man but I would be interested in understanding your position on the topic.
For the attention of Mr. Jeremy Hunt

Dear Sir,

I am worried about the restricted dark market and the effect this is going to have on my business already next year. With the introduction of plain packaging it is going to be difficult to recognise easily the difference in brands and restocking correctly. This will only affect my profit that is low already due to the high taxes that you collect on cigarettes.

I follow the guidelines with regard to under age selling of cigarettes strictly and I feel that you are using the legitimate retailers as a scapegoat in introducing more policies that will not change children’s impressions on smoking.

I would feel better if you had proof that plain packaging would do what you want it to do but you have none and we, the retailer are guinea pigs and losing our livelihoods in the process.

Yours faithfully
Dear Mr Jeremy Hunt

I am writing this letter to get my point over of NOT HAVING PLAIN CIGARETTE PACKAGING. We as an independent convenience store feel that this is totally out of order as because as of April 2015 doors will be fitted to our tobacco gantry so plain packaging will be of no use other than:

- Increasing illegal sales of tobacco products
- Forcing small stores out of business or laying staff off
- Increasing profits for criminals
- Decreasing government tax off tobacco products in turn putting more taxes on other products

The need to tackle smoking is understandable but PLAIN packaging is not the answer, as this, as I have said before will lead to more illegal sales and the trade being forced underground and with so many cuts being made in this country i.e. Customs and excise and police forces I see the illegal made of tobacco products increasing if PLAIN packaging is introduced.

I understand that you are a busy person but feel this is an issue that could force a lot of businesses out of business and a lot of people out of work.

Yours sincerely
DEAR SIR,

PLEASE DO NOT HAVE PLAIN PACKS ON CIGARETTES, AS I WILL LOSE CUSTOMERS. IT WILL FUEL THE BLACK MARKET IN COUNTERFEIT AND SMUGGLED TOBACCO. I BELIEVE THIS WILL NOT BENEFIT BY HAVING PLAIN PLAIN PACKAGES.

THANKING YOU,
To whom it may concern,

I am writing with regards to the ongoing consultation for Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products.

Being an independent retailer & selling in this business for over 5 years, I have to conclude that this legislation is a clear indication that the legislation of plain tobacco packaging will have no doubt be an effect on my shop as it may reduce my sales and customer service will be continued to be ongoing. This is due to the new display laws. As a result, it will be difficult to sell tobacco products, which will increase as customer demand continues to increase. We are selling a legal product to customers, why are we being forced to stop smoking and reduce the number of customers who are regular smokers? We are not being asked to stop smoking, but we are being asked to stop selling tobacco products. This is definitely unfair.
Tobacco Packs Consultation,
Department of Health,
7th Floor,
Wellington House,
133-155 Waterloo Road,
London SE1 1UG

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

This is a formal consultation response.

Introducing standardised packaging would put the responsible legal supply chain at risk. The more you make tobacco look like an 'under-the-counter' product, the more you make the illegal supply appear to be attractive. Customers in general are down trading to cheaper brands and if all packs looked the same and the price is not easily seen. The cheaper illegal tobacco will flourish for its ability to openly state price to those who wish to save themselves the hassle of remembering what price their preferred brand is at the shops.

Evidence from Australia (KPMG) indicates that there has been an increase in illicit tobacco trade since plain packaging was introduced. Since the introduction 67% of Association of Convenience Stores say the growth of the black market has had an impact on their business.

Most retailers share your desire to improve public health and they comply with regulations on the sale of tobacco. They need less red tape not more.

As a small local shop (CTN) I rely heavily on tobacco to generate footfall and for cash flow purposes complying with tobacco legislation and making very low profits from it's sale.

To make it Invisible (tobacco) in shops, it will not only cost jobs, but the loss of many small traders like myself who depend on tobacco sales to drive their business.

Retaining the status quo on tobacco packaging is the best option for effective long term tobacco control in the UK.

Your sincerely,
Tobacco Packs Consultation
Mr Jeremy Hunt, MP
Department of Health
7th Floor, Wellington House
133-135 Waterloo Road
LONDON
SE1 8UQ

30th July 2014

Retailers Formal Consultation Response

Dear Mr Hunt,

I am writing to you as a small business owner based in Belfast City centre committed to sustaining retail diversity on our city streets. I strongly believe the current wave of tobacco legislation and the proposed plain packaging measures will have a serious impact on my business while having little effect on the consumption of tobacco products throughout the UK.

I believe this legislation will make it easier for more illegal trading to take place under black market conditions. These traders do not ask the age of their customers, they have no interest in the illegal material found in counterfeit products and their profits are not taxed.

My business employs approx. 50 members of staff. We have continued operating under extremely testing times since the recession struck in 2008. We are under additional pressure from discount brands and multiples moving into our sector. As a government committed to the small business owner we are appealing to you to lobby on our behalf and protect our interests from further threats.

My main concerns are listed below. Should you wish to contact me directly to discuss my views in more detail my mobile number is [redacted]

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted]
Managing Director
To whom it may concern,

Subject: Proposed plain packaging tobacco products

I am an independent retailer making a living from the store. The proposed plain packaging will destroy the tobacco trade and in-turn the government will have less revenue in its coffers.

Being a reputable trader we have to make sure that we don't serve under age but illicit traders don't care and plain packaging plays in their favour.
By having restricted display it has not made any difference to the tobacco sales but plain packaging will decrease our sales but increase the illicit traders sales.
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

I am writing this letter as my formal consultation response to the government's consideration of plain cigarette packs in the UK.

We are strongly against the move to standardized packs for the main reasons:

→ Easier for counterfeiters and illegal products (which are bad in my area already)

→ There are plenty of other legislations that we currently have to deal with. Without another tax on tobacco, it is already a very low profit with plain packs. Everyone will smoke more cheap cigarettes.

I look forward to your response.
23/07/2014

R.E. A formal consultation response

Dear Mr. Jeremy Hunt,

As a convenience store owner, I rely heavily on tobacco sales. I believe that introducing plain packaging would negatively affect my business and pose numerous disadvantages. For example:

- It would be much harder for customers to differentiate between tobacco products at a glance. Transactions would thus take longer to carry out.

- Plain packaging would most likely decrease the marketability of tobacco products. This would cause a decline in my sales.

- Since plain packaging is easier to reproduce, it could also cause an increase in the smuggling of tobacco products.

I hope you will consider the points I have put forward.

Yours Sincerely,
Re: Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

To whom it may concern,

As an Independent retailer, I wish to be known that I am totally against Tobacco Plain Packaging.

As of April 2015, we will no longer be able to display tobacco products, this in itself is going to cause considerable increases in serving times, without making it more difficult to locate the product by making them all look the same, thus making my business more vulnerable to theft.

We enforce a strong No ID policy on underage sales, as do the majority of retailers. Underage smokers can still access tobacco products from the counterfeit and non UK duty paid supplies, perhaps if you put as much effort into controlling the sale of illegal product we would see a reduction in the sale of these products within the illicit market.

As far as I am aware, evidence from countries that have already implemented this policy, have proven that the implementation of plain packaging has not delivered the planned decrease in either the number of smokers or consumption levels.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Honorable Jeremy Hunt MP,

I have been informed that there are plans to enforce legislation for standardised packaging on tobacco & cigarettes. I understand around 200,000 children start smoking every year in the UK according to British Lung Foundation. Children start smoking because of attraction and want to look adult. It's a visual image from the brain want to look adult. Not attraction by packaging. They also start smoking because of irresponsible parents and society. We must enforce standardised social structure and tougher laws to prevent children from buying and smoking. A dedicated team who only ensures the prevention of children obtaining cigarettes from the shops would be a better solution. Even further more how about the personal moral responsibility from the shopkeepers and the society locally and nation wide.

Increase awareness of harm of smoking amongst children through schools also would help to tackle this problem. Packaging never would make a difference in the numbers of smokers. If we are really looking for cure rather than a solution then I would suggest a ban on manufacturers of tobacco and a ban on smoking. Our economy structure is not capable of surviving by loosing £12 billion per year revenue, instead, introducing a legislation to ban nicotine and a cocktail of 4000 chemicals added in the tobacco which cause the addiction and the cancer, would help the economy, NIS and the 100,000 preventable deaths a year and Smokers enjoy a healthy smoke, economy thrives and more revenue for the government. I also feel that democracy failed yet again by telling me not to show loyalty. We show loyalty to brands, names, schools, businesses, products and endless list goes on. So how is it fair for anyone to show loyalty to a particular political party? By standardise we achieve nothing but penalising few tobacco company and economy. I hope this will change your view on standardised packaging. Thank you for your patience and taking your invaluable time to read this letter.

Yours truly,

20/07/2014
31 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

RE: Retailers Formal Consultation Response to Plain Packaging

I am retailer in the independent retailer sector. I wish to lodge my formal consultation response against plain packaging for the following reasons.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers; the display ban has not even come in for small shops and the Government want to impose even more restrictions. The EU Tobacco Products Directive comes into effect in May 2016; this will ban packs of cigarettes of less than 20 sticks and all RYO under 20g. These larger packs will mean consumers will need to make fewer purchases per week, therefore reducing footfall.

Plain packaging is an unnecessary additional piece of regulation, as health warnings will already increase to 65% of the pack under the EU Tobacco Products Directive. The Government is supposed to be supporting small shops; instead they are just trying to impose even more red-tape and placing an additional burden on retailers. Costs of training staff will only increase if plain packaging is introduced.

The Government is wrong to claim that the retailer will "benefit" from a decrease in transaction times. Serving a customer when all the packs are the same colour and the writing so small will take much longer than for a branded pack.

Removing brands will make products easier to counterfeit and undermine a retailer's legitimate trade. The illegal trade in tobacco is already a problem in the UK, by introducing plain packaging the Government is making it easier for criminals to operate.

Criminals do not care about age, those that deal in illicit tobacco are responsible for supplying to those who are under age.

It is in BOTH of our interests to eliminate illicit trade. If I sell more legitimate tobacco the government earns more in tax!

Kind regards,

[Signature]
31 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

RE: Retailers Formal Consultation Response to Plain Packaging

I am retailer in the Independent retailer sector. I wish to lodge my formal consultation response against plain packaging for the following reasons.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers; the display ban has not even come in for small shops and the Government want to impose even more restrictions. The EU Tobacco Products Directive comes into effect in May 2016; this will ban packs of cigarettes of less than 20 sticks and all RYO under 30g. These larger packs will mean consumers will need to make fewer purchases per week, therefore reducing footfall.

Plain packaging is an unnecessary additional piece of regulation, as health warnings will already increase to 65% of the pack under the EU Tobacco Products Directive. The Government is supposed to be supporting small shops; instead they are just trying to impose even more red tape and placing an additional burden on retailers. Costs of training staff will only increase if plain packaging is introduced.

The Government is wrong to claim that the retailer will "benefit" from a decrease in transaction times. Serving a customer when all the packs are the same colour and the writing is small will take much longer than for a branded pack.

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Criminals do not care about age, those that deal in illicit tobacco are responsible for supplying to those who are under age.

It is in BOTH of our interests to eliminate illicit trade. If I sell more legitimate tobacco the government earns more in tax.

Kind regards,

[Signature]
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a retailer who sells tobacco, and I am opposed to the standardization of tobacco packaging. I fully believe the extra restrictions on selling tobacco will have no added benefit.

Firstly, counterfeit tobacco products, which already have a big effect on my sales, will increase dramatically, just as in Australia.

Secondly, this new legislation is being discussed before the implementation of the tobacco display ban. We must wait for this to come into force, before we discuss any further legislation. This will not be productive or fair on traders to add another layer of legislation.

Thirdly, my customers will have to spend an enormous amount of time waiting to be served.

Thank you for reading this letter.

[Signature]
To Whom It May Concern

Department Of Health,

It is with great concern that I am writing this letter, highlighting my concerns over plain cigarette packaging.

The main concern is that yet again the government are putting another "nail in the coffin" for [store name] stores that are law abiding citizens such as us and the vast majority of shop keepers. We work 12 hours a day 7 days a week in order to make a living from our stores and I believe that the fundamental reason behind customers coming to us in the first place is because we offer a far superior service than the multi's and customers are confident they will get the legitimate brand they require.

If the new legislation is passed this will deter customers using us, as they will be met with high levels of confusion as the packets will look the same and it will increase our serving times which will have a "knock on" effect to our customers, losing us business.

This coupled with the high volumes of illicit trade that are currently on going will fuel the black market trade, and drive more customers underground. It will have a devastating effect on shop keepers who undergo legal compliance procedures within the government guidelines to help prevent under age sales and keep crime to a minimum. If plain packets are allowed this will help organised gangs to continue if not increase the volume they do.

Regards

[Signature]
Dear Sir/Madam

I am a retailer who sells tobacco, and I am opposed to the standardization of tobacco packaging. I fully believe the extra restrictions on selling tobacco will have no added benefit.

Firstly counterfeit tobacco products, which already have a big effect on my sales, will increase dramatically, just as in Australia.

Secondly this new legislation is being discussed before the implementation of the tobacco display ban. We must wait for this to come into force, before we discuss any further legislation. This will not be productive or fair on traders to add another layer of legislation.

Thirdly my customers will have to spend an enormous amount of time waiting to be served.

Thank you for reading this letter.
Jeremy Hunt

July 2014

Dear Jeremy,

Plain Packaging on cigarettes will have a terrible financial impact on our store. Easier to be counterfeit. Takes longer for staff to serve. Confusing for customers. Try to help small businesses and make it more difficult?
Dear Sir,

Re: Proposed plain packaging of tobacco products.

We feel the proposal of the whole packing will affect our business in a very negative way. We feel not only would it increase delays in the store, but customers will start using the illegal trade which is prevalent in the area. This could lead to reduced staff costs as this is my only variable cost. As we have already been faced with significant inconvenience to cover the unit, which obviously negates any requirement for further restriction within the form of plain packaging.

Yours faithfully,
Dear Sir,

I disagree with plan. Pack as will frustrate my customers as I need to spend more time serving them, also it will increase our fake cigarette.
31-07-2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in regards to the new plain packaging, as we all know that business is getting harder and harder day by day. I think this will be a big mistake as duty free cigarettes could be sold on the market and this could have a big impact on business, as well as losing cigarette sales there is chances of losing non-cigarette sales as well and I believe this will have a big impact on the market for all retailers and also wholesalers.

I hope you strongly take this into consideration.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

[Signature]

(Director)
Dear Jeremy,

I am a respected retailer in the independent retail sector. I have always supported legislative implementations to control the supply and sale of tobacco products. I believe we are now about to take a step too far and therefore feel I must oppose the consultation on plans to protect our products. This will place additional strain on my business above that will be created by the display ban which has not even been implemented yet. I think it is very misguided of the government to claim that we as retailers will benefit from a reduction in transaction fraud; where is the evidence to support this? The truth is that myself and I will need more time to identify a brand at loss!

If retailers are all the same it will become a significantly more price-driven market as trade will be too hard to identify among my customers. They will clone brand and sell profits will shrink as we know that date currently are close to constant together.

I pay particular attention to the age of those who support a tobacco product reduction use of the 'challenge 25' program, unfortunately the general group who operate in this market do not care about age. These politicians cal lead easier to copy and drive the market into their hands as doing so undoes all the good work that have been done to reduce incidents of smoking among younger people.

What's happened to freedom of choice and Sovereignty? My business may well support this but will likely still suffer beyond. Retailers should not be penalised for being effective. How about a support on small businesses.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I am concerned that the current consultation into plain packaging at six weeks is insufficient for the busy summer holiday period. Retailers like me will bear the brunt of any changes and it is crucial that they have a proper opportunity to comment. Therefore, I would request that the consultation period is extended.

In addition, the impact assessment for the proposed regulation is not translated into English which could penalise some retailers whose first language is not English who fully need to understand how plain packaging, if introduced, might impact on them.
Dear Sir:

My formal consultation response is against plain packaging for tobacco products.

We do not want the illegal trade to grow and only worse implications that will make it harder than it already is to do business.

The confusion for my brand between cigarette brands is already bad enough without making them all look the same.

With evidence from Australia showing more people smoke value brands I don't want to lose the last bit of profit I can make in expensive brands.

Yours sincerely,
Date 30/07/14
To MR Jeremy Hunt MP

Re: Opposition to plain packaging on cigarette packets

Dear Sir,

I am a small convenience store in Tottenham, (North London) and I am writing to you regards the plain packaging on cigarette packs for which I understand there is going to be a consultation in the parliament on 7th of August 2014.

I am writing because I am really worried for my livelihood as already our sales have plummeted since having to go dark on the display of the cigarettes.

As it is now we have to spend time opening up and trying to remember where the actual cigarettes are on our blackened display and at least we can identify the brand from its design. Although we have lost our sales we are getting more concerned that plain packaging will ultimately get the smokers to turn to illegal sellers in pubs and clubs where there is no restriction to who buys and this will lead to even less in footfall through our doors. Ultimately a loss to us as well as HMRC in lost VAT as well as taxation.

Also I feel that by making it compulsory for plain packaging represents a nanny state which is far too much as the Adult Consumer is increasingly treated as a child who would not be able to make an informed decision for themselves. For smokers purchasing the packets can already read...

VAT REG No: [Redacted]
and see the disturbing images and warning signs already present, also the new European Union's directive, which will cover over 65% of the packs. So why do we need plain packaging?

I am also concerned about the slippery slope this government is going down. Once this standardized packaging comes into effect, it will set a precedence for other products such as alcohol, fatty foods, and I have heard that Confectionary is already the next target.

It is very easy for you politicians to come up with these ideas, but have you ever thought of the hardship it can cause the retailers when all the products look the same? Please urge your colleagues to work for just one day and you will see the difference it makes in the identification of the items from their colours displayed.

We also do not want the children to smoke. We feel that smoking should be a choice for informed adults and we have absolutely no objection to the measures you place upon us to prevent children from smoking. If the government really wants to protect children from smoking, it should seek tougher enforcement of existing laws and focus on further education in schools and illegal trade in counterfeit trade, which is so prevalent in pubs and clubs and is being ignored by the politicians.

Thank you for taking time to read my concerns.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

VAT REG No.: [Redacted]
Standard Packs

My family have been in the independent trade for over 30 years and we have seen a lot of changes in this time with regards smoking.

Our business is based in a council estate where we are busy throughout the day. Our main source of business is cigarette sales which doesn't make a good margin but, it brings the customer over the door. If plain packaging was to come in my profits are going to drop as due to the number of people coming through the doors I won't have the time to scan a unit looking. Also staff may sell the wrong product which is going to take up more of my time. Obviously if all packs are the same size it is going to make it easier to copy and sell anything in it.

We as retailers have already had to accept the covering of the units. This is a step too far, for the sake of livelihood's this cannot be considered.

Yours hopefully
Dear Sirs,

To whom it may concern,

Please do not go ahead with the standard packaging of cigarettes in the UK. My business is made up of 30% tobacco sales and I will be unable to operate within this environment. My footfall will drop drastically and as I work on my own, I will not have the time to mess around looking for packets that all look the same.

There is a lot of fake cigarettes around my shop which is already affecting my business and this is only going to make it worse.

Your sincerely
Dear Sir/Madam,

Standing Article

I am writing to you as an independent retailer who is gravely concerned about the proposed standardising of cigarette packaging.

These steps that are being taken, whilst driven by the health lobbyists, are going to be of great detriment to myself and fellow retailers. My concerns are the amount of illicit trade that will flood the market, time is till point and most importantly LOST PROFITS.

I am strongly against restricting a market that is already heavily legislated.

Your sincerely,
Jeremy Hunt MP  
Department of Health  
Standardised Tobacco Packaging Consultation  
PO Box 1126  
Canterbury  
CT1 9NB  

30 July 2014  

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP  

Response to the Standardised Tobacco Packaging Consultation 2014  

I am a self-employed retailer who sells tobacco.  

I am opposed to standardised/plain packaging as it would:  

- Fuel the black market in counterfeit and smuggled tobacco. This has been the effect in Australia, already, up to 16% of cigarettes consumed in the UK are not bought in UK retail, and this will get worse.  

- Frustate my customers as I need to spend more time serving them.  

- Add more restrictions. The tobacco display ban is not even implemented yet, Europe has just decided to ban packs of fewer than 20 cigarettes, Packs of less than 25g tobacco and menthol cigarettes  

Yours sincerely  
[Signature]
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP, this is a formal consultation response to the plain packaging!

I am against this because it will:

- Effect My Sales
- Fuel Illegal Sales
- Serve "Time" for my customers
- May cause tension between staff & customers
- Cause extra stress for owners & staff if giving wrong cigarettes too the customer
Dear [Name],

Hunt MP and state that it is a formal consultation response.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers because:
1) it will frustrate my customers as I need to spend more time serving them.
2) fuel the black market
3) waste time for myself and my staff
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

As an Independent Retailer I would like to intimate my objection to the Government's proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products.

We have as a trade been subjected to numerous changes within the tobacco category over past few years and like all my colleagues within trade we have adhered to those changes and have certainly seen our business suffer.

This new proposal is just another piece of legislation that will ensure that the independent trade suffer with the large multi-store companies gaining yet again from government support.

Plain packaging will increase the illicit trade that is without question.

In summary I as an independent retailer strongly object to the introduction of plain packaging as it will have a detrimental effect on my business.
Re: Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

To whom it may concern,

As an independent retailer, I wish it to be known that I am totally against Tobacco Plain Packaging.

As of April 2015, we will no longer be able to display tobacco products; this in itself is going to cause considerable increases in serving times, without making it more difficult to locate the product by making them all look the same, thus making my business more vulnerable to theft.

We enforce a strong No ID policy on underage sales, as do the majority of retailers. Underage smokers can still access tobacco products from the counterfeit and non UK duty paid supplies, perhaps if you put as much effort into controlling the sale of illegal product we would see a reduction in the sale of these products within the illicit market.

As far as I am aware, evidence from countries that have already implemented this policy, have proven that the implementation of plain packaging has not delivered the planned decreases in either the number of smokers or consumption levels.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

PROPOSED PLAIN PACKAGING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

The proposed change to tobacco products that your government is proposing is absolutely ridiculous.

As seems to be the norm, independent local retailers are to suffer.

The following points are main concerns for me:

- More restrictions after the hassle of covering particulars
- The warnings on packets already cover 65% of pack-
- Where is the government support to local retailers?
- Finding correct brand will become a task for staff
- No supportive findings from Australian legislation
- Illicit trade will increase, funding criminals/terrorists/sweat shop factories etc

I would like to strongly object to the government proposal on this issue and hopefully you will see sense.
Dear Jeremy Hunt,

In response to the objection raised, it is apparent that this does not work in Australia, and this will have repercussions for myself as a small business and is just more red tape. I reiterating the brands will be a nightmare. It will slow down transaction times and will encourage the illicit trade. Please take these points into consideration when making your small decision.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Sir,

This is a formal response to the proposal to introduce plain packaging on cigarette packs in the future.

I strongly disagree with this proposal and believe that the following issues/reasons justify my strongly held beliefs:

- Plain packs will make it so much easier for illegally produced packs to increase their influence on the market;
- Surely government revenue will decrease from tobacco products resulting in increased charges in other sectors?
- This will make life much harder for retailers such as myself for purchasing/merchandising/selling these products;
- Customers will face longer times at the till point;
- This has already failed to have any impact in other countries, Australia being the best example;
- Jobs in the tobacco/packaging/marketing industries could be at threat if this excessive measure is introduced;
- Finally, this is just another in a long line of regulations/laws etc., which make life harder for the smaller, independent retailer. We are trying to make an honest living and just face more and more issues/possesses from government, at a time when trading is harder than ever before. We should be getting more support instead of more problems!

I hope you will take time to digest these points and realising the issues within, will stop plans to bring in plain packaging.

Yours faithfully,
Dear Sir,

Plain Packaging

In response to the above, I have to say that as a retailer I am totally opposed to the above. As a small independent tobacconist / newsagent, life is hard enough with all the red tape we already have to comply with. We open 13 hours daily and try to provide a good service for all our customers, despite the never ending changes / regulations.

We do not sell to children and do our utmost to comply with all rules etc., in fact if plain packaging comes in, all it will do is help the illegal market to make extra money and deprive the government of their taxes. As these officials who dream up these ideas not live in the real world, between doors on our quality and plain packs, how are we supposed to find anything. This is going to result in a slower service for our customers and also a safety threat to my staff, who will have their backs to whoever is in the shop for longer.

This may not matter in a large store, but at 7.30am on a winter's morning, it leaves us more vulnerable to being held up, and whoever steals our cigarettes etc., will have no conscience when it comes to selling to children, as long as they get their cash!

I would like to think that you will take note of the abuse, but in this world of big brother, I will not hold my breath.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Mr. Jeremy Hunt MP,

Re: Formal consultation response to cigarette plain packaging.

I am writing in response to the formal consultation of cigarette plain packaging. I have owned and operated a convenience store in Loughborough for the past 32 years and would like to add my voice to this consultation. I feel the introduction of plain packaging would be a further burden on my business bearing in mind that I have just recently had to adapt my store for the forthcoming display ban in April 2015. I keep hearing and reading that your government is pro small business but this in my opinion is yet another hurdle for my business and many businesses like mine.

Independent convenience stores are currently experiencing challenging trading conditions, several supermarkets have opened hundreds of their own local stores, continue to open more at a greater pace, and competing with these multinationals is difficult. About twenty percent of my customers purchase a tobacco product and their football leads to the purchase of additional products, I fear that if all cigarette packaging appears the same, customers will find it more difficult to distinguish between brands and therefore quality, and will opt for the cheapest cigarettes, affecting my margins. We all rely on brand names on packaging to make purchasing decisions every day and it would be unfair and burdensome on consumers to lose the ability to distinguish between brands by quickly glancing at the packaging of tobacco products.

Furthermore, speaking practically, the forthcoming display ban will already mean that my transaction times will increase. More importantly, whilst opening and closing the doors, my back will be turned, possibly leading to an increase in thefts. By introducing plain packaging, transaction time will increase further still because if all of the packets appear the same, I will need to spend a few seconds extra reading the text on the packets to ensure that I select the correct pack as requested by the customer, further exacerbating the likelihood of thefts. That text coincidentally will be in the same font on all packets.

I am concerned also by the EU Tobacco Products Directive coming into effect in 2016 which will ban the sale of packets with under twenty cigarettes or under 80g of tobacco. My business is situated near a Housing Association estate and many of my customers purchase cigarettes in packs of ten or 20g packs of tobacco because it is all they can afford. I fear I will lose these customers from 2016 and that some may turn to illicit tobacco which is already a problem in Loughborough as it is nationwide. The removal of branding from packs will of course make it easier for criminals to produce counterfeit tobacco products.

Department of Health Standardised Packaging Consultation,
PO Box 1126,
Canterbury,
CT1 9NB.

26th July 2014,

[Signature]
I have read evidence from Australia which indicated that there has been an increase in the illicit trade in tobacco since the introduction of plain packaging. This is a key consideration I believe, because the sale of tobacco products in my store is a legitimate trade, is carefully controlled, all duties are paid, I work hard to ensure that these products are not sold to persons under the age of 18, and I of course satisfy Trading Standards to this affect. Criminals do not care how old their customers are, whether their illicit tobacco is being bought for consumption by children, care about the quality and safety of their illicit tobacco, and not to mention how the proceeds of their crime will be spent on perhaps further criminal activity.

Finally, whilst the health warnings on packs are an important message to consumers, the EU Tobacco Products Directive will increase these warnings to 65% of the packet, making the case for plain packaging less appealing considering the burden it will place on retailers who sell tobacco products and the consumers who may become confused over branding and quality.

For the reasons I have detailed, I believe that cigarette plain packaging should not be introduced.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Plain Packaging Consultation Response

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

The display ban, that has already been implemented within our store, has not yet reached smaller businesses and yet you are already trying to impose further restrictions? Waiting to see if this is having any effect is surely more desirable than burdening retailers with further regulations that are likely to decrease the amount of tobacco product sales. Since the display ban was introduced in our store we have had a number of customer's walk out without making a purchase (either of tobacco or any other product) as a direct result of this. These numbers will only increase if plain packaging is introduced.

The Governments claim that transaction times will “decrease” with the new scheme is ridiculous. How is this possible if we have to spend time locating the product that is hidden behind a screen? Surely transaction times would increase, resulting in customers becoming increasingly impatient and therefore resorting to other means of purchase? In these hard times it would be nice if the Government would follow through on its supposed support to smaller shops, rather than keep introducing more rules and restrictions that result in a loss of sales.

The purpose of this scheme is to decrease the amount of younger people starting smoking. However, all stores support at least a “Challenge 18” policy, as is the law, so clearly younger people are obtaining them through other means. Doesn’t this need addressing, rather than penalising the stores abiding by the laws you have passed? Customers will opt for the cheaper options available in stores, that will result in less margins and a smaller profit (which is already tiny to begin with!).

The plain packaging scheme has already been implemented in Australia and the evidence so far suggests that an increasing amount of people are using illegal means of obtaining tobacco. Is this not something you want to avoid? All this will achieve is higher levels of illegal activity and stores struggling to keep afloat.

I urge you to rethink this proposal and the disastrous consequences that it will bring. I am fully against plain packaging.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Supervisor
Dear Sir/Madame

I am a retailer who sells tobacco, and I am opposed to the standardisation of tobacco packaging. I fully believe the extra restrictions on selling tobacco will have no added benefit.

Firstly counterfeit tobacco products, which already have a big effect on my sales, will increase dramatically, just as in Australia.

Secondly this new legislation is being discussed before the implementation of the tobacco display ban. We must wait for this to come into force, before we discuss any further legislation. This will not be productive or fair on traders to add another layer of legislation.

Thirdly my customers will have to spend an enormous amount of time waiting to be served.

Thank you for reading this letter.
Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly think having Standardized Packaging is going to have a great deal of money that will help the companies to be more independent and efficient. In addition, it will help to close more Independent Grocers.

Thank You.
Dear Sir/Madame

I am a retailer who sells tobacco, and I am opposed to the standardization of tobacco packaging. I fully believe the extra restrictions on selling tobacco will have no added benefit.

Firstly counterfeit tobacco products, which already have a big effect on my sales, will increase dramatically, just as in Australia.

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Secondly, this new legislation is being discussed before the implementation of the tobacco display ban. We must wait for this to come into force, before we discuss any further legislation. This will not productive or fair on traders to add another layer of legislation.

Thirdly my customers will have to spend an enormous amount of time waiting to be served.

Thank you for reading this letter.
Tue 29 July 2014

Jeremy Henry MP,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposal to have plain packaging for cigarettes.

Tobacco sales are important in bringing customers into our shops. It gives us the chance to sell other more profitable products.

Plain packaging on top of the display counter will make serving these large units across our range & profitability.

We are selling a legal product to adults & provide taxation revenue.

Please let us get on with our business without more red tape.

Yours -
Dear Sir/Madam

I am a retailer who sells tobacco, and I am opposed to the standardization of tobacco packaging. I fully believe the extra restrictions on selling tobacco will have no added benefit.

Firstly counterfeited tobacco products, which already have a big effect on my sales, Will increase dramatically, just as in Australia.

Secondly this new legislation is being discussed before the implementation of the tobacco display ban. We must wait for this to come into force, before we discuss any further legislation. This will not be productive or fair on traders to add another layer of legislation.

Thirdly my customers will have to spend an enormous amount of time waiting to be served.

Thank you for reading this letter.
30 July 2014

THIS IS A FORMAL CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

The convenience store has been trading since November 2003, during this time many changes in the tobacco industry have taken place which have been implemented by us as responsible retailers.

Next year we will be installing doors on the tobacco gantry in compliance with law to discourage underage sales. Over the years with the increased prices on tobacco and cigarettes trading has been difficult as it is without having to introduce plain packaging.

As per the findings from plain packaging being introduced in Australia we can see that plain packaging isn’t discouraging underage sales and has increased the amount of illegal tobacco in circulation there due to plain packaging being easier to counterfeit.

As a retailer, I am deeply concerned that the introduction of plain packaging will directly affect me as a small retailer in a climate where the government is supposed to be helping small businesses like ourselves thrive and continue.

Your prompt response will be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
Dear Mr. Jeremy Hunt - MP,

RE: PLAIN PACKAGING

I am writing to express my disapproval on plain packaging, if this is put into place, counterfeit will sky rocket and this will affect our sales in a negative way, we rely highly on cigarette sales and we fear we may lose our business if this happens. There is no proof that plain packaging works even though it is in effect in Ireland & Canada, plain packaging is a opportunity for counterfeiters to take our revenue & the governments revenue. I am strongly against plain cigarette packaging and I hope this does not materialise.

Kind Regards

[Signature]

DIRECTOR
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

I am an Independent Retailer who currently stocks & sells Tobacco. I would like to inform you that Plain Packaging will have a profound effect on my business, which currently there is no proof that Plain Packaging will be successful.

Furthermore, I support my Government to support Small, Independent Businesses. Rather than always supporting large stores.
I oppose to Plain Packaging as there are no Key Points.

Kind Regards
The Right Honourable Mr. Jeremy Hunt MP

Dear Mr. Hunt,

Re: PLAIN PACKAGING

I have been a retailer in the C.T.N. sector for over 25 years. Through successive Governments we have witnessed experienced above inflation taxation on cigarettes and have had to live with it.

In my experience (the plain packaging will not work (still regarding the forthcoming display ban) for the following reasons:

1) It will lead to a massive rise in illicit trade as branding will not be allowed.
2) There is not enough proof that it will lead to a reduction in smoking. (In fact, in Canada and Australia it has not been proven that sales have reduced)
3) It will lead to confusion amongst staff, more so with part-time and temporary staff as most retailers employ part-time regularly.
4) I do think the UK government has an obligation to support small retailers (irrespective of E.U. laws) as we employ a large number of the total employed and contribute to the UK economy, not the EU economy.
5) The Government should support small businesses, not suppress them.

I believe that the present Government should leave tobacco products as they are and boost the economy. There, bear in mind bootlegging and smuggling will increase.

How will you address this?

Yours faithfully,
To Whom it may concern,

I am [Company Name], a [Company Type], and we have [Company Information].

Due to [Reason], we are concerned about [Issue].

Your assistance in [Suggestion] would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much.

Yours Sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I am an independent retailer with many years of experience and I am writing in response to the consultation on plain packaging on tobacco products.

I feel that this will not make a difference to the current sales of tobacco products as they are already going to be covered after April 2015 so I can't see the worth in changing the packets as well. It is proven that in Australia that smokers now just opt for the cheapest product and tend to move towards the black market too. This can only have a negative effect on not only my business but of most CITK's in the UK as consumers will no longer visit our shops as regularly. This will also have an impact on transaction times and staff training will also be a cost as well, I can't see how this is of any benefit to independent retailers.

Regards
Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to the consultation on plain packaging for tobacco products. As an independent retailer, I feel that this is just another burden being placed on us and business is tough already. This is just going to make smokers buy illegal products and drive customers from my shop, making it harder for me to make a living.

Regards
Re: Standard Packaging Consultation.

I am against the Plain Packaging on Cigarette and Tobacco.

It will increase counterfeit trade and will be another burden on the independent retailers with longer waiting times and a decrease in profit.

Please keep things as they are.

Yours Sincerely,
Ref: Standardised Tobacco Consultation

Dear Sir,

I am opposed to the plain packs on tobacco and cigarettes. I am a independent retailer and I feel this move will have an adverse effect on my business.

It will increase the illicit tobacco trade which is already a big issue in my area. With over 20% of my sales coming from tobacco anyone which reduces the footfall in my shop will reduce my profit.

Please register my objection to this plan.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]
Standardised Tobacco Packaging Consultation

Dear Sir,

The plain packs on tobacco is a bad idea. It will cause a lot of counterfeit stock & reduce my profits.

It will be game over for shops like mine.

30 July 14
Ref: Standardised Tobacco Packaging

30th July 2014

Dear Sirs,

I am against plain cigarette packets. I feel plain packets will increase counterfeit trade; it will encourage illegal trade, and under-age smoking because criminals don’t worry about the age of their customers. Plain packets will also reduce my profits.
Standardised Tobacco Packaging.

Dear Sir,

I am STRONGLY AGAINST Plain Packs on Cigarettes and Tobacco.

I am concerned about my safety. The longer transaction time trying to locate a pack when they all look the same will give criminals an opportunity to shoplift.

I feel it will also increase the counterfeit trade and undermine my legitimate trade, thus reducing my profits.

Leave the cigarette packs alone.

Yours sincerely,
Ref: Suggested Packaging Consultation

To whom it may concern,

I am against Plain Packs on cigarettes + tobacco.

I believe it will increase counterfeit stock around one area of my shop which is already a problem plus criminals will not care who they sell to. This will decrease footfall in my shop thus decreasing my profit.

Leave the packs as they are one come up of display will be enough.

Yours Sincerely
Plain Packaging consultation
To Whom It May Concern,

I am an independent retailer.

I find it incredible that the UK government can blindly propose ludicrous, ill-informed, unsubstantiated proposals to introduce Tobacco plain packaging. Not only this but using the hard-working independent retailers' taxes to fund the pro-advertising.

Maybe if you had to work 12 hours a day, 7 days a week to try and make a living and then see some folks in Ivory Tower try their damnedest to try to make you work harder still, you might appreciate the true cost of your proposals.

The independent retail trade do not lightly undertake any sale, let alone cigarettes to children, yet time and time again we are castigated for that elusive "smudgle" that will get a minister or similar some press coverage. If you perhaps actually went down to ground level, you would realise that children prefer to spend their money on downloads, computer games and mobile. For most cigarettes is the last thing on their minds.

Please note, there is no profit in selling cigarettes as you have taxed them to the hilt. All we want is the ability to sell a LEGAL product to our eligible customers.

Yours Sincerely,

[Signature]

A very angry retailer.
Dear [Name],

I am an independent retailer who has owned and run [business name] for many years. As such, I take this opportunity to write to you in relation to the consultation on plain packaging as it is an issue that will impact directly on my business.

Tobacco is difficult, with the growth of the convenience store and bare, substandard, extended into those smaller convenience store type stores, retail outlets are under enormous pressure as a result of ongoing high for customers ‘through the door’. I like most independents rely on the footfall generated by the kiosk products (are legally allowed to sell in this country).

The already heavy taxation of these products, which thins billions back into the government, has already made an already very low price. As the will known tobacco products will be removed from April 2013. This will already increase the time it takes to serve customers as I can now staff the floor instead of worse with the customers is unsure the brand they require and can no longer see what we offer. The introduction of plain packaging where all brands are the same idea only a small identifiability will further impact on this. It is estimated that an increase of just 1 minute in serving a customer will result in the loss transactions for hours through my store.

As we know this is sales I can not afford to lose and will have an effect on the overall profitability and ultimately the sustainability of my business.

All evidence from Australia making the switch to plain packs has shown that there has been an increase in illegal product and trade. The recent investigative documentaries on the television highlighted the already huge problem we have with this in UK, which you are unable to control. Perhaps time and effort would be better spent addressing this issue before pandering to Small Pressure Groups to gain votes on a general election approach is as bad as it gets.
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I am a retailer in Goole, East Yorkshire. The country's most inland Blackpool, and being a port we suffer heavily with contraband cigarette sales.

Your proposal to limit all packaging to be plain is too punitive, as yet we haven't had to suffer the display ban but within weeks it will be implemented and the only winners will be the people who don't have to do it - the smugglers. The advent of plain packaging will just make it easier for them to counterfeit packets, as already smuggled and counterfeit packs account for the large majority of sales around here.

Plain packaging is not going to make anything easier other than reduce the number of packets sold legitimately. Every lookalike packet sold doesn't benefit the taxman, no duty, no VAT, no Corporation Tax, lower wages and therefore less PAYE and meanwhile the NHS will still have to pick up the pieces.

Why do we have a legal product that is effectively sold under the counter which only guarantees it to under 18s who can't legally buy from me but do you think the smugglers ask for proof of age - WE DON'T.

Plain packaging will not work.

Yours Sincerely,
Dear Sir/Madam

I am a retailer who sells tobacco, and I am opposed to the standardization of tobacco packaging. I fully believe the extra restrictions on selling tobacco will have no added benefit.

Firstly, counterfeit tobacco products, which already have a big effect on my sales, will increase dramatically, just as in Australia.

Secondly, this new legislation is being discussed before the implementation of the tobacco display ban. We must wait for this to come into force, before we discuss any further legislation. This will not be productive or fair on traders to add another layer of legislation.

Thirdly, my customers will have to spend an enormous amount of time waiting to be served.

Thank you for reading this letter.
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Thirdly my customers will have to spend an enormous amount of time waiting to be served.

Thank you for reading this letter.
To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns about plain packaging on cigarettes.

Firstly, I believe that plain packaging will encourage counterfeit and smuggled tobacco products due to the standardised design and same box.

Secondly, I think that plain packaging may also weaken branding and result in poor product and customer experience. It could become problematic if we give the wrong product and cause frustration. This is where we only know the consumer. We would run up and buy the wrong product, resulting in loss of goods to customers who buy the same product.

The display ban has not fully taken effect yet so I do not understand why plain packaging is to be implemented now.
Tobacco Packs Consultation
Dept of Health
7th Floor
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 1UG

31 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

RE: Retailers Formal Consultation Response to Plain Packaging

I am retailer in the Independent retailer sector. I wish to lodge my formal consultation response against plain packaging for the following reasons.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers; the display ban has not even come in for small shops and the Government want to impose even more restrictions. The EU Tobacco Products Directive comes into effect in May 2016; this will ban packs of cigarettes of less than 20 sticks and all RYO under 30g. These larger packs will mean consumers will need to make fewer purchases per week, therefore reducing footfall.

Plain packaging is an unnecessary additional piece of regulation, as health warnings will already increase to 65% of the pack under the EU Tobacco Products Directive. The Government is supposed to be supporting small shops; instead they are just trying to impose even more red-tape and placing an additional burden on retailers. Costs of training staff will only increase if plain packaging is introduced.

The Government is wrong to claim that the retailer will "benefit" from a decrease in transaction times. Serving a customer when all the packs are the same colour and the writing so small will take much longer than for a branded pack.

Removing brands will make products easier to counterfeit and undermine a retailer’s legitimate trade. The illegal trade in tobacco is already a problem in the UK, by introducing plain packaging the Government is making it easier for criminals to operate.

Criminals do not care about age, those that deal in illicit tobacco are responsible for supplying to those who are under age.

It is in BOTH of our interests to eliminate illicit trade, if I sell more legitimate tobacco the government earns more in tax!

Kind regards,
31 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

RE: Retailers’ Formal Consultation Response to Plain Packaging

I am retailer in the independent retailer sector. I wish to lodge my formal consultation response against plain packaging for the following reasons.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers; the display ban has not even come in for small shops and the Government want to impose even more restrictions. The EU Tobacco Products Directive comes into effect in May 2016; this will ban packs of cigarettes of less than 20 sticks and all RYD under 30g. These larger packs will mean consumers will need to make fewer purchases per week; therefore reducing footfall.

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Removing brands will make products easier to counterfeit and undermine a retailer’s legitimate trade. The illegal trade in tobacco is already a problem in the UK, by introducing plain packaging the Government is making it easier for criminals to operate.

Criminals do not care about age, those that deal in illicit tobacco are responsible for supplying to those who are under age.

It is in BOTH our interests to eliminate illicit trade. If I sell more legitimate tobacco the government earns more in tax!

I strongly suggest you obtain proper evidence to substantiate your claims.

Kind regards,
Jeremy Hunt (MP)
Dept of Health
7th floor
Wellbery House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SW7 7UQ

Dear Mr Hunt,

I am writing in response to your letter of 22nd April 2008. I believe that the department should be commended for taking action to reduce the likelihood of children from becoming addicted to cigarettes.

Increasing the price of cigarettes is a good step but we need to do much more than this. The cost of the packs is already high and we need to consider other means of reducing the likelihood of children starting to smoke.

Yours sincerely,
Tobacco Packs Consultation
Dept of health
7th Floor
Wellington House
133-135 Waterloo Road
London SE1 IUG

31 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt,

This is the retailers formal Consultation response on standardised packaging of tobacco products

I am an independent retailer.
I find it totally ludicrous that this government is hell-bent on making these unfounded proposals on standardised packaging listening to unqualified professionals who know nothing about retail industry.

I work 12 hours a day 7 days a week to make a living, there is endless red tape we do not need more. Did this government promise less red tape not more while you and your colleagues sit in your ivory tower in London who have lost touch with the real world.

We as a trade do not tightly undertake any sale to children, but we are still castigated for not being responsible in our jobs. The children do not have time to look at tobacco/cigs in my shop they have better things to do, go on social media etc.

Already the government is losing revenue on illicit tobacco 4 billion pounds a year, you are in effect giving the criminals carte blanche to do what they want at our expense they will sell to children under 18 THEY DO NOT CARE AT ALL.

We urge that you use common sense and not introduce these proposals to make a legal product in effect illegal, we are already taxed to the hilt already so the profit is low, plain packaging will only increase our serving times for our customers, why do plain packaging when we are going to put doors on our gas stoves in April 2015, is that not enough?

Look at Australia it has not worked there tobacco illegal activity has, retailers hit.

Please keep the status quo and not change the law, if you need any more information please get in touch by email.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Owner
To whom it may concern

I am independent [redacted] retailer.

I am against the proposed plain packaging for Cigarettes and Tobacco products, due to even though that the UK government has placed such a high tax on them and minimal profit is made on them, but that's not the issue.

My argument is that I want my and other retailer's customers to have the choice to decide if they wish to purchase cigarettes/tobacco products, without sight of plain and boring packaging so they can make decision if they wish to purchase them.

This country and other countries where built on advertising as retailer, in my view every product deserves the right amount advertising on them this is what make them sell.

I hope these few statements encourage the UK government decide to scrap the plain packaging idea.

Regards

[redacted]

Company director of [redacted]
Jeremy Hunt

I feel compelled to write to you in your capacity as Secretary of State for Health with regard to the issue of plain packaging on tobacco products. I am firmly believe that the government is considering the implementation of such controversial legislation in an attempt to protect young and vulnerable people.

I am sure there is absolutely no evidence that introducing plain packs would deter anyone from purchasing tobacco.

As a small shopkeeper the loss with which plain packaging could be inflicted would cause me major concern. I believe that contraband tobacco at present can take up to 20% of my potential sales - evidenced from the uplift in sales when smuggled cigarettes floats. I would be fearful that my business could be forced to close completely - causing the job losses of all my staff if plain packs were introduced and there were unable to realize the source of my livelihood.

Even at another level the potential problems for staff and customers in identifying different brands can only lead to increased waiting and queries, causing frustration for both parties.
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

Re: Formal consultation response for Plain packaging of cigarettes

In my constituency of Wolverhampton, we have a real problem with the use of cigarettes. The issue is regularly in the local paper, and being a shepherder myself, I get to know just how bad the problem is. Children on their way to school, regularly visit the 'fag houses' to buy illegal cigarettes.

This problem could be decreased greatly by the introduction of cigarettes in plain packaging.

I once heard a story about criminals paying homeless people in Manchester to walk around picking up used cigarette ends and employing children from outside bars to be used in the making of counterfeit cigarettes.

The criminal gets will be made easier by the introduction of plain packs.

I believe in Australia, the criminal share of the market has dropped to nearly 20% of the market and there are calls for the return to be banned, coloured packs.

Yours sincerely
Re: Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

To whom it may concern,

As an independent retailer, I wish it to be known that I am totally against Tobacco Plain Packaging.

As of April 2018, we will no longer be able to display tobacco products, this in itself is going to cause considerable increases in serving times, without making it more difficult to locate the product by making them all look the same, thus making my business more vulnerable to theft.

We enforce a strong No ID policy on underage sales, as do the majority of retailers. Underage smokers can still access tobacco products from the counterfeit and non UK duty paid supplies, perhaps if you put as much effort into controlling the sale of illegal product we would see a reduction in the sale of these products within the illegal market.

As far as I am aware, evidence from countries that have already implemented this policy, have proven that the implementation of plain packaging has not delivered the planned decreases in either the number of smokers or consumption levels.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

PROPOSED PLAIN PACKAGING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

The proposed change to tobacco products that your government is proposing is absolutely ridiculous.

As seems to be the norm, independent local retailers are to suffer.

The following points are main concerns for me:

- More restrictions after the hassle of covering gantiers
- The warnings on packets already cover 65% of pack.
- Where is the government support to local retailers?
- Finding correct brand will become a task for staff.
- No supportive findings from Australian legislation
- Illicit trade will increase, funding criminals/terrorists/sweat shop factories etc

I would like to strongly object to the government proposal on this issue and hopefully you will see sense.
Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Address]

[Date]
Dear Sir,

This is a formal response to the proposal to introduce plain packaging on cigarette packs in the future.

I strongly disagree with this proposal and believe that the following issues/ reasons justify my strongly held beliefs:

- Plain packs will make it so much easier for illegally produced packs to increase their influence on the market.
- Surely government revenue will decrease from tobacco products, resulting in increased charges in other sectors?
- This will make life much harder for retailers such as myself for purchasing / merchandising / selling these products.
- Customers will face longer times at the till point.
- This has already failed to have any impact in other countries, Australia being the best example.

1. Jobs in the tobacco / packaging / marketing industries could be at threat if this excessive measure is introduced.

2. Finally, this is just another in a long line of regulations / laws, etc., which make life harder for the smaller, independent retailer. We are trying to make an honest living and just face more and more issues/problems from government, at a time when dealing is getting harder than ever before. We should be getting more support instead of more problems!

I hope you will take time to digest these points and realise the issues within, will stop done to bring in plain packaging.

Yours hopefully,
Dear Sir,

Plain Packaging

In response to the above, I have to say that as a retailer I am totally opposed to the above. As a small independent tobacconist/newsagent, life is hard enough, with all the red tape we already have to comply with, we open 13 hours daily and try to provide a good service for all our customers, despite the never-ending changes / regulations.

We do not sell to children and do our utmost to comply with all rules etc., in fact if plain packaging comes in, it will do us no good. It will help the illegal market, take away money and deprive the government of their taxes. As these officials who dream up these ideas not live in the real world, between doors on our quality and plain packs, how are we supposed to find anything. This is going to result in a slimmer service for our customers and also a safety threat to my staff, who will have their backs to whoever is in the shop for longer. This may not matter in a large store, but at Totton on a winter’s morning it leaves us more vulnerable to being held up, and whoever steals our cigarettes etc., will have no conscience when it comes to selling to children, as long as they get their cash.

I would like to think that you will take note of the above, but in this world of big brother, I will not hold my breath!

Yours sincerely,
Department of Health Standardised Packaging Consultation.
PO Box 1126,
Canterbury,
CT1 5NB.

28th July 2024.

Dear Mr Jeremy Hunt MP,

Ref: Formal consultation response to cigarette plain packaging.

I am writing in response to the formal consultation of cigarette plain packaging. I have owned and operated a convenience store in Loughborough for the past 52 years and would like to add my voice to this consultation. I feel the introduction of plain packaging would be a further burden on my business bearing in mind that I have just recently had to adapt my store for the forthcoming display ban in April 2015. I keep hearing and reading that your government is pro small business but this in my opinion is yet another hurdle for my business and many businesses like mine.

Independent convenience stores are currently experiencing challenging trading conditions, several supermarkets have opened hundreds of their own local stores, continue to open more at a greater pace, and competing with these multinationals is difficult. About twenty percent of my customers purchase a tobacco product and their football leads to the purchase of additional products. I fear that if all cigarette packaging appears the same, customers will find it more difficult to distinguish between brands and therefore quality, and will opt for the cheapest cigarettes affecting my margins. We all rely on brand names or packaging to make purchasing decisions every day and it would be unfair and burdensome on consumers to lose the ability to distinguish between brands by quickly glancing at the packaging of tobacco products.

Furthermore, speaking practically, the forthcoming display ban will already mean that my transaction times will increase. More importantly, while opening and closing pantry doors, my back will be turned, possibly leading to an increase in thefts. By introducing plain packaging, that transaction time will increase further still because if all of the packets appear the same, I will need to spend a few seconds extra reading the text on the packet to ensure that I select the correct pack as requested by the customer, further exacerbating the likelihood of thefts. This could coincide with the same small font on all packets.

I am concerned also by the EU Tobacco Products Directive coming in to effect in 2016 which will ban the sale of packets with under twenty cigarettes or under 30g of tobacco. My business is situated near a Housing Association estate and many of my customers purchase cigarettes in packs of ten or 12.5g packs of tobacco because it is all they can afford. I fear I will lose these customers from 2016 and that some may turn to illicit tobacco which is already a problem in Loughborough as is it nationwide. The removal of branding from packs will of course make it easier for criminals to produce counterfeit tobacco products.

DIRECTORS: [Redacted] & CO. REG NO: [Redacted]
VAT REG NO: [Redacted] & CO. SECRETARY: [Redacted]
I have read evidence from Australia which indicated that there has been an increase in the illegal trade in tobacco since the introduction of plain packaging. This is a key consideration I believe, because the sale of tobacco products in my store is a legitimate trade, is carefully controlled, all duties are paid, I work hard to ensure that these products are not sold to persons under the age of 18, and I of course satisfy Trading Standards to this effect. Criminals do not care how old their customers are, whether their illicit tobacco is being bought for consumption by children, care about the quality and safety of their illicit tobacco, and not to mention how the proceeds of their crime will be spent on perhaps further criminal activity.

Finally, whilst the health warnings on packs are an important message to consumers, the EU Tobacco Products Directive will increase these warnings to 65% of the packet, making the case for plain packaging less appealing considering the burden it will place on retailers who sell tobacco products and the consumers who may become confused over branding and quality.

For the reasons I have detailed, I believe that cigarette plain packaging should not be introduced.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Sir/Madam

PLAIN PACKAGING RESPONSE

We write to confirm our protest to plain packaging of cigarettes, clearly people who smoke are going to smoke and any attempts to disguise the product or product type will prove fruitless.

The issues this proposal will cause regarding confusion of brands and in particular the ease at which counterfeit cigarettes will be enabled to be produced will only add to a further loss of revenue to HM custom and Excise.

Yours Faithfully

[Name Blacked Out]

Director
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP and State that it is a formal consultation response.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers because
1) it will frustrate my customers as I need to spend more time serving them.
2) fuel the black market
3) time wasting for myself and my staff.
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

As an Independent Retailer I would like to intimate my objection to the Governments proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products.

We have as a trade been subjected to numerous changes within the tobacco category over past few years and like all my colleagues within trade, we have adhered to those changes and have certainly seen our business suffer.

This new proposal is just another piece of legislation that will ensure that the independent trade suffer with the large multi-store companies gaining yet again from Government support.

Plain packaging will increase the illicit trade that is without question.

In summary I as an independent retailer strongly object to the introduction of plain packaging as it will have a detrimental effect on my business.
Tobacco Packs Consultation
Dept of Health
7th Floor
Wellington House
333 - 335 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 7UG

31 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

RE: Retailers Formal Consultation Response to Plain Packaging

I am retailer in the independent retail sector, I wish to lodge my formal consultation response against plain packaging for the following reasons.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers; the display ban has not even come in for small shops and the Government want to impose even more restrictions. The EU Tobacco Products Directive comes into effect in May 2016; this will ban packs of cigarettes of less than 20 sticks and all RYO under 30g. These larger packs will mean customers will need to make fewer purchases per week, therefore reducing footfall.

Plain packaging is an unnecessary additional piece of regulation, as health warnings will already increase to 65% of the pack under the EU Tobacco Products Directive. The Government is supposed to be supporting small shops; instead they are just trying to impose even more red tape and placing an additional burden on retailers. Costs of training staff will only increase if plain packaging is introduced.

The Government is wrong to claim that the retailer will benefit from a decrease in transaction times; serving a customer where all the packs are the same colour and the writing so small will take much longer than for a branded pack.

Removing brands will make products easier to counterfeit and undermine a retailer’s legitimate trade. The illegal trade in tobacco is already a problem in the UK; introducing plain packaging the Government is making it easier for criminals to operate.

Criminals do not care about age, those that deal in illicit tobacco are responsible for supplying to those who are under age.

It is in BOTH of our interests to eliminate illicit trade. If I sell more legitimate tobacco the Government earns more in tax.

Kind regards,

[Signature]
This is in response to the consultation on plain packaging.

Dear Sirs,

My family and I run a local shop in North Lanarkshire, Scotland and we are concerned that cigarettes will have to be sold in plain packs similar to Australia; this will prove very difficult for us in many ways. Our staff will find it difficult to locate on our display and customers will potentially switch to illegal purchases which will harm our footfall and ultimately our profits in our shop. Please reconsider bringing this law into force.
Dear Sir,

This is a formal letter in response to the consultation on Plain Packaging of cigarettes. I have a small newsagents on the outskirts of Glasgow and rely on cigarettes as a big part of my business. I feel strongly that if the government brings in plain packaging my football will decrease as my customers will purchase their cigarettes illegally instead, less customers means less money in my till and myself and my family will suffer as a result.

Please reconsider your proposal.
Dear Mr. Hurt,

This is in opposition to the fومal consultation period on pho packaging of
products. My business and the profits I make.

As a retailer in Scotland, I feel
that this would be detrimental to
the majority of
our customers who
will simply lose
profit in our pockets.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Mr Jeremy Hunt MP  
Department of Health  
Standardised Packaging Consultation  
PO Box 1126  
Canterbury  
CT1 9N3  

29 July 2014

Dear Mr Hunt MP,

Response to Plain-Packing Consultation

I hereby wish to register my objection to the proposed changes and introduction of plain packaging for tobacco goods.

The reasons for my objection are:

I believe that plain packaging is an unnecessary piece of legislation that will be of no further benefit to reducing tobacco consumption. Due to the retail display ban, which comes into full effect from 6 April 2015, this will have the result that products only being visible to tobacco consumers only. Therefore it will mean that only customers who wish to smoke will see the goods and as they know the brands they wish to buy changing the packaging will not alter this.

I fear and believe that removing brand identity will make products easier to counterfeit and undermine the legitimate trade. There is a real danger that consumers will be duped into buying goods that are not genuine as the current packaging is much more difficult to replicate. It is already evident from research from Australia that there has been an increase in the illegal trade of tobacco. Surely this is the area that should be being addressed.

In addition to this there will be a significant and direct impact on businesses for example, increased transaction times and staff requiring extra training to identify the brands.

I am totally against plain packaging on tobacco products and in my opinion it stands to serve no real purpose.

Yours sincerely,
31st July 2014

Re: Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

To whom it may concern,

As an Independent retailer, I wish it to be known that I am totally against Tobacco Plain Packaging.

As of April 2016, we will no longer be able to display tobacco products, this in itself is going to cause considerable increases in serving times, without making it more difficult to locate the product by making them all look the same, thus making my business more vulnerable to theft.

We enforce a strong No ID policy on underage sales, as do the majority of retailers. Underage smokers can still access tobacco products from the counterfeit and non UK duty paid supplies, perhaps if you put as much effort into controlling the sale of illegal product we would see a reduction in the sale of these products within the illegal market.

As far as I am aware, evidence from countries that have already implemented this policy, have proven that the implementation of plain packaging has not delivered the planned decreases in either the number of smokers or consumption levels.

Yours sincerely,
Tobacco Packs Consultation
Dept of Health
7th Floor
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 9UG

31 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

RE: Retailers Formal Consultation Response to Plain Packaging

I am retailer in the independent retailer sector. I wish to lodge my formal consultation response against plain packaging for the following reasons.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers; the display ban has not even come in for small shops and the Government want to impose even more restrictions. The EU Tobacco Products Directive comes into effect in May 2016; this will ban packs of cigarettes of less than 20 sticks and all RTD under 18g. These larger packs will mean consumers will need to make fewer purchases per week, therefore reducing footfall.

Plain packaging is an unnecessary additional piece of regulation, as health warnings will already increase to 65% of the packs under the EU Tobacco Products Directive. The Government is supposed to be supporting small shops; instead they are just trying to impose even more red-tape and placing an additional burden on retailers. Costs of training staff will only increase if plain packaging is introduced.

The Government is wrong to claim that the retailer will “benefit” from a decrease in transaction times. Serving a customer when all the packs are the same colour and the writing so small will take much longer than for a branded pack.

Removing brands will make products easier to counterfeit and undermine a retailer’s legitimate trade. The illegal trade in tobacco is already a problem in the UK, by introducing plain packaging the Government is making it easier for criminals to operate.

Criminals do not care about age; those that deal in illicit tobacco are responsible for supplying to those who are under age.

It is in BOTH of our interests to eliminate illicit trade. If I sell more legitimate tobacco the government earns more in tax.

Kind regards,
Tobacco Packs Consultation
Dept of Health
7th Floor
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 1UG

31 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

RE: Retailers Formal Consultation Response to Plain Packaging

I am retailer in the independent retailer sector. I wish to lodge my formal consultation response against plain packaging for the following reasons:

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers, the display ban has not even come in for small shops and the Government want to impose even more restrictions. The EU Tobacco Products Directive comes into effect in May 2016, this will ban packs of cigarettes of less than 20 sticks and all RYO under 30g. These larger packs will mean consumers will need to make fewer purchases per week therefore reducing footfall.

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The Government is wrong to claim that the retailer will "benefit" from a decrease in transaction times. Serving a customer when all the packs are the same colour and the writing so small will take much longer than for a branded pack.

Removing brands will make products easier to counterfeit and undermine a retailer’s legitimate trade. The illegal trade in tobacco is already a problem in the UK, by introducing plain packaging the Government is making it easier for criminals to operate.

Criminals do not care about age, those that deal in illicit tobacco are responsible for supplying to those who are under age.

It is in BOTH of our interests to eliminate illicit trade. If I sell more legitimate tobacco the government earns more in tax.

Kind regards,

[Signature]
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

This is a formal consultation response.

Introducing standardised packaging would put the responsible legal supply chain at risk. The more you make tobacco look like an 'under-the-counter' product, the more you make the illegal supply appear to be attractive. Customers in general are down trading to cheaper brands and if all packs looked the same and the price is not easily seen, the cheaper illegal tobacco will flourish for its ability to openly state price to those who wish to save themselves the hassle of remembering what price their preferred brand is at the shops.

Evidence from Australia (KPMG) indicates that there has been an increase in illicit tobacco trade since plain packaging was introduced. Since the introduction 67% of Association of Convenience Stores say the growth of the black market has had an impact on their business.

Most retailers share your desire to improve public health and they comply with regulations on the sale of tobacco. They need less red tape not more.

As a small local shop (OTN) I rely heavily on tobacco to generate footfall and for cash flow purposes complying with tobacco legislation and making very low profits from it’s sale.

To make it invisible (tobacco) in shops, it will not only cost jobs, but the loss of many small traders like myself who depend on tobacco sales to drive their business.

Retaining the status quo on tobacco packaging is the best option for effective, long-term tobacco control in the UK.

Yours sincerely,
1st August, 2014

Jeremy Hunt MP
Dept of Health
7th Floor
Wellington House
133-135 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 7LG

Dear Mr. Hunt,

I write in response to the plain packaging consultation which I believe is a totally unnecessary piece of regulation and a burden on our business.

Plain packaging will most definitely increase the illicit tobacco trade which will lead to less footfall in my shop and less turnover.

Yours Sincerely,

[Signature]
Re: Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

To whom it may concern,

As an independent retailer, I wish it to be known that I am totally against Tobacco Plain Packaging.

As of April 2015, we will no longer be able to display tobacco products, this in itself is going to cause considerable increases in serving times, without making it more difficult to locate the product by making them all look the same, thus making my business more vulnerable to theft.

We enforce a strong No ID policy on underage sales, as do the majority of retailers. Underage smokers can still access tobacco products from the counterfeit and non UK duty paid supplies, perhaps if you put as much effort into controlling the sale of illegal product we would see a reduction in the sale of these products within the illicit market.

As far as I am aware, evidence from countries that have already implemented this policy, have proven that the implementation of plain packaging has not delivered the planned decreases in either the number of smokers or consumption levels.

Yours sincerely,
31st July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP
(Formal Consultation Response)

As the manager of a busy retail store in [redacted], I believe that plain packaging on

I feel that the Government should be supporting small local businesses instead of introducing

These larger packs will mean consumers will be making fewer purchases which will ultimately

I believe that products will be easier to counterfeit and will undermine our legitimate trade so the

I would urge you to rethink this motion.
24th July 2014

Dept of health Standardised Packaging Consultation

PO BOX 1126
Canterbury
CT1 9NB

Dear Jeremy Hunt

I am writing to you concerning the retailers formal consultation response. I am opposed to the plain packaging policy being considered as this will have a massive impact on my business.

The sale of tobacco products encourages customers into my shop and the restrictions of packing sizes can only encourage people to buy from illegal sources. This will also mean extra staff training will need to be incurred. This legislation will only impose more red tape and additional burdens on our business.

Please consider our concerns and help us to stay in business.

Yours Sincerely
Tobacco Packs Consultation
Dept of Health
7th Floor
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 2UG

31 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

RE: Retailers Formal Consultation Response to Plain Packaging

I am retailer in the independent retailer sector. I wish to lodge my formal consultation response against plain packaging for the following reasons.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers; the display ban has not even come in for small shops and the Government want to impose even more restrictions. The EU Tobacco Products Directive comes into effect in May 2016; this will ban packs of cigarettes of less than 20 sticks and all RYO under 50g. These larger packs will mean consumers will need to make fewer purchases per week, therefore reducing footfall.

Plain packaging is an unnecessary additional piece of regulation, as health warnings will already increase to 65% of the pack under the EU Tobacco Products Directive. The Government is supposed to be supporting small shops; instead they are just trying to impose even more red-tape and placing an additional burden on retailers. Costs of training staff will only increase if plain packaging is introduced.

The Government is wrong to claim that the retailer will “benefit” from a decrease in transaction times. Sending a customer when all the packs are the same colour and the writing so small will take much longer than for a branded pack.

Removing brands will make products easier to counterfeit and undermine a retailer’s legitimate trade. The illegal trade in tobacco is already a problem in the UK, by introducing plain packaging the Government is making it easier for criminals to operate.

Criminals do not care about age, those that deal in illicit tobacco are responsible for supplying to those who are under age.

It is in BOTH of our interests to eliminate illicit trade, if I sell more legitimate tobacco the government earns more in tax.

Kind regards,
RETAILER'S FORMAL CONSULTATION RESPONSE.

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

As a newsagent for over 30 years I fail to understand the current government thinking on 'Plain Packaging' and the new legislation on going dark due to come into operation next year. Being a responsible retailer no facts or figures have shown me that either covering up or going plain packaging will result in smokers stopping smoking. It is my view these moves will only force people down the road of purchasing illicit product.

We have already seen this happen over the last number of years. Constant price increases have forced many of our customers to look for cheaper tobacco from illegal sources. And I believe that this will only increase when we go dark and escalate if plain packaging where to be introduced.

Our business has already seen this happen over past few years. Significant price increases have forced many of our customers to look for cheaper counterfeit product which becomes more and more available as more restrictions are put on the legal trade. It will be too easy for the criminal world to copy plain packaging.

I currently employ thirty five members of staff but as our turnover and profits fall, I fear for the future of my staff. I urge all people involved in producing the legislation to think again on plain packaging. Create an environment for responsible retailers rather than pushing this business further and further towards the black market.

Yours faithfully,
To Whom It May Concern:

I am the manager of a local supermarket, supplying the local community for over 20 years. I am opposed to plain packaging being introduced on tobacco products as I am of the opinion it will have a detrimental effect on my business, which is already suffering due to the introduction of shutter doors on the tobacco gantries. This has already made the serving of tobacco products more difficult and has increased waiting times at the checkout. I believe these new measures will have no effect on the amount of people who smoke.

We already work closely with the Council regarding age-related sales and I believe these proposed new measures are going to drive customers towards more illicit ways of obtaining tobacco products, therefore resulting in a loss to the Revenue.

Regards,
Re: Plain Packaging on Cigarettes

To: Jeremy Hunt MP

Dear Sir,

I am against plain packaging for the following reasons:

Counterfeiting – Counterfeiting will have a field day with this with the downside that all sorts of hazardous materials will be used in their manufacture and no control over who they sell to, as well as the loss revenue for both trader and obviously竹t someone for HM.

It has been said that young smokers find present packaging attractive – I have to ask if anyone has started to smoke because the packaging enticed them? – Another political soundbite.

If the pictures and warnings are too shocking it will not make anyone give up but will cause them to find alternative supplies - illicit – from sources that are not controlled by EU/UK legislation or come to me and buy cigarette cases/boxes to put them into and so will be counter-productive.

With the big cover up of cigarette ganties - and plain packaging is still being considered? please look at above points.

Yet more proposals from people that do not understand the industry and how it works, who are suggesting laws that are counter-productive and inconvenient to legitimate traders who are on the same side yet no one listens to us. Why don't these lawmakers talk to us to find solutions rather than trying to find a political gain. Believe it or not, we do know what we are talking about.

Yours Faithfully

[Redacted]

Tel: [Redacted] VAT No. [Redacted]
Tobacco Packs Consultation
Dept of Health
7th Floor
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 1UG

31 July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

RE: Retailers Formal Consultation Response to Plain Packaging

I am retailer in the independent retailer sector, I wish to lodge my formal consultation response against plain packaging for the following reasons.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers; the display ban has not even come in for small shops and the Government want to impose even more restrictions. The EU Tobacco Products Directive comes into effect in May 2016; this will ban packs of cigarettes of less than 20 sticks and all RYO under 30g. These larger packs will mean consumers will need to make fewer purchases per week, therefore reducing footfall.

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Removing brands will make products easier to counterfeit and undermine a retailer’s legitimate trade. The illegal trade in tobacco is already a problem in the UK, by introducing plain packaging the Government is making it easier for criminals to operate.

Criminals do not care about age, those that deal in illicit tobacco are responsible for supplying to those who are under age.

It is in BOTH of our interests to eliminate illicit trade. If I sell more legitimate tobacco the government earns more in tax!

Kind regards,
Tobacco Packs Consultation
Dept of Health
7th Floor
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 1UG

31 July 2014

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I am retailer in the Independent retailer sector. I wish to lodge my formal consultation response against plain packaging for the following reasons.

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Plain packaging is an unnecessary additional piece of regulation, as health warnings will already increase to 55% of the pack under the EU Tobacco Products Directive. The Government is supposed to be supporting small shops; instead they are just trying to impose even more red-tape and placing an additional burden on retailers. Costs of training staff will only increase if plain packaging is introduced.

The Government is wrong to claim that the retailer will "benefit" from a decrease in transaction times. Servicing a customer when all the packs are the same colour and the writing so small will take much longer than for a branded pack.

Removing brands will make products easier to counterfeit and undermine a retailer’s legitimate trade. The illegal trade in tobacco is already a problem in the UK, by introducing plain packaging the Government is making it easier for criminals to operate.

Criminals do not care about age, those that deal in illicit tobacco are responsible for supplying to those who are under age.

It is in BOTH of our interests to eliminate illicit trade. If I sell more legitimate tobacco the government earns more in tax.

Kind regards,
Tobacco Packs Consultation
Dept of Health
7th Floor
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 1UG

31 July 2014

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It is in BOTH of our interests to eliminate illicit trade. If I sell more legitimate tobacco the government earns more in tax!

Kind regards,

[Signature]
31st July 2014

Re: Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

To whom it may concern,

As an Independent retailer, I wish it to be known that I am totally against Tobacco Plain Packaging.

As of April 2015, we will no longer be able to display tobacco products, this in itself is going to cause considerable increases in serving times, without making it more difficult to locate the product by making them all look the same, thus making my business more vulnerable to theft.

We enforce a strong ID policy on underage sales, as do the majority of retailers. Underage smokers can still access tobacco products from the counterfeit and non UK duty paid supplies, perhaps if you put as much effort into controlling the sale of illegal product we would see a reduction in the sale of these products within the illicit market.

As far as I am aware, evidence from countries that have already implemented this policy, have proven that the implementation of plain packaging has not delivered the planned decreases in either the number of smokers or consumption levels.

Yours sincerely,
Tobacco Pads Consultation
Department of Health
7th floor
Wellington House
133-155 Victoria Rd
London
SE1 1UB
31/7/14

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

I am writing with my concern with a formal Consultation response to plain packaging.

The Government is supposed to be supporting small shops but it has, because opposed with all the red tape and placing additional burden & costs on retailers, not its case.

Also in the area, there is a high amount of counterfeit cigarettes and tobacco, and if removing more brands from our shelves, this will only contribute to the rise in these illegal trade.

The effect of raising the minimum tobacco purchase by 30g for £2.50 tobacco will mean consumers will make fewer purchases per week, affecting & reducing my footfall and turnover.

I hope my concerns are received

Yours faithfully
Formal Consultation Response to the Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I write this letter in strong opposition to the Government’s proposed plain packaging for tobacco products.

You are supposed to be supporting independent retailers – but time and time again you introduce more red tape and place additional burdens on us. I share your willingness to improve public health – but this is not the answer.

I have been looking at the evidence from Australia very closely. Early evidence suggests that people are not stopping smoking, they are merely ‘down-trading’ and being driven by price. If UK customers followed the same pattern, they would just start buying it illegally from pipes / street corners anywhere other than MY SHOP!

I make very little on tobacco, but it drives my footfall. Footfall leads to purchases of other items in my store, and without this my business would close overnight.

Plain packaging on tobacco – what next? Plain packaging on crisps, sweets, fast food? Where does this end. Once you take away branding, you take away a person’s freedom of choice and their civil liberties. This is not the principles this great country we live in was founded on.

Yours Faithfully,

[Name Redacted]
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

The government is supposed to be helping "small shops" but instead they are imposing more red tape and putting more pressure on a very tight budget. Please think again.

Yours faithfully,

30/7/14.
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I would like to write to you today to inform you of my absolute disgust around the decision to introduce tobacco plain packaging within the UK and Scotland. I feel this decision is nothing more than a policy designed to work against independent retailers (who have to pay taxes for this very reason) and a cheap opportunity to make headlines. The policy itself has no substance at all.

I would politely ask you to put yourself in the shoes of a person who is working 7 days a week trying to make a hard living rather than to think about millionaires in penthouses when you make proposals such as this.

Independent retailers do not under any circumstances take lightly any sales of cigarettes especially to underage members of the public. However we always seem to be singled out by the government as easy pickings when looking for a bit of media publicity. I would also suggest actually looking into what a child actually spends their pocket money on. I suggest by conducting the research you would be surprised to find out that in fact you are more likely to see the money spent on downloads, computer games and gadgets rather than tobacco and other items designed for adult use.

The only real impact I can see this having is encouraging (illegal) tax free cigarettes to be sold by criminals, making it harder for us Independent retailers to establish the real ones from the fakes. Currently we are not even able to make a profit on cigarettes due to the absurd taxation already placed upon us but at least allow us the opportunity to sell those legally.

My last and final comment would be to show me the evidence that changing the packaging would have a positive effect on the market and also on myself as an independent retailer. I would ask you to take more time to please consider the full impact before making your decision.

Yours sincerely
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

As an independent retailer I am TOTALLY against Tobacco plain packaging now or in the future.

Time and time again we have been hit. There is no profit in selling cigarettes as you have taxed them to the limit.

This whole change will not deter people who want to smoke; this will allow consumers to purchase them from illicit market which will decrease our sales. You're also hitting consumers from foreign country who purchase cigarettes by looking at the pack as they can't speak English.

How much money will be spent on changing the unit? It does not justify.

What evidence do you have that plain packaging will help consumers from smoking less?

All we want is the ability to sell a legal product to our eligible customers.

Yours sincerely
Formal Consultation: Response to the Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

Please accept this letter in strong opposition to the proposed introduction of plain packaging of tobacco products. I am an Independent Retailer and frankly I am fed up with the continuing ill thought and unsubstantiated proposals 'brought to the table' by this government.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on law abiding, tax paying businesses! The retail display ban on tobacco has not even come into effect for small shops......and you want to impose more restrictions?!

You are wrong to assume that plain packaging will have a positive effect on reducing instances of smoking – people will still smoke! The only difference you will see is an increase in the illicit trade (which is already a massive problem!), by making it easier for criminals to counterfeit! You are completely undermining my legitimate trade.

If you want to drive this industry into the hands of criminals, then be ready for an increase in youth smoking. I will never and have never sold a tobacco product to any person under the age of 18 – can you say the same for the criminals involved in the illicit trade?

I hope that common sense prevails in this consultation, and you not only shelve – but abolish any plans to introduce plain packaging. People are fed up with the 'nanny state' that is being driven in this country, the results of the recent EU elections have shown you this.

Yours faithfully,

[Signatures]
Formal Consultation Response to the Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

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Please accept this letter in strong opposition to the proposed introduction of plain packaging of tobacco products. I am an independent retailer and frankly I am fed up with the continuing ill thought and unsubstantiated proposals "brought to the table" by this government.

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I hope that common sense prevails in this consultation, and you not only shelve - but abolish any plans to introduce plain packaging. People are fed up with the "nanny state" that is being driven in this country; the results of the recent EU elections have shown you this.

Yours Faithfully,
Department of Health
Standardised Tobacco Packaging Consultation
PO Box 1126
Canterbury
CT1 9NB

To whom it may concern,

I have been a retailer for only 6 months now with most of my trade being made up from the sale of tobacco and newspapers. I am struggling as the profit generated from this makes me survive once the retail display ban is imposed in April 2015 as the proposed plain packaging will destroy my business. The age of technology is destroying by decreasing my newspaper itself. The age of technology makes it so much easier to get information that people have the choice and ability to make their own decisions that the introduction of plain packaging has no place or reasoning.

I am disappointed that you have made a u-turn with regards the introduction of plain packaging. I feel there is no logic in what you are trying to propose that all reports that have been published and facts that have been collated in other countries such as Canada, Australia, and Thailand that there has been no reduction in the number of smokers rather the opposite and more importantly an increase illicit trade. That then has a huge impact on revenue received by the government from the sales of cigarettes from controlled and regulated outlets and small stores like myself.

The time taken to serve customers is going to be frustrating for my customers and myself. I'm also worried about the potential increase in theft in my store whilst I'm looking for the brand my customer wants someone else will be robbing me blind.

I would appreciate your support. You have much to gain by reconsidering this concept as the implications of your decisions have greater consequences than you have calculated.

Sincerely,

[Name]

Owner
Dear Jeremy Hunt,
I am writing to you to say what a waste of time and total nonsense this would be.
As of next year, I am going to have to cover my stock prior to selling it (Retail Display Plan) so customers won't see any brands anyway.
My 2 main concerns would be, big delays in a simple transaction and a bigger rise in counterfeit stock being sold on the streets.
Yours [name redacted]
Re: Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

To whom it may concern,

As an independent retailer, I wish it to be known that I am totally against Tobacco Plain Packaging.

As of April 2015, we will no longer be able to display tobacco products, this in itself is going to cause considerable increases in serving times, without making it more difficult to locate the product by making them all look the same, thus making my business more vulnerable to theft.

We enforce a strong No ID policy on underage sales, as do the majority of retailers. Underage smokers can still access tobacco products from the counterfeit and non UK duty paid supplies. Perhaps if you put as much effort into controlling the sale of illegal product we would see a reduction in the sale of these products within the illicit market.

As far as I am aware, evidence from countries that have already implemented this policy, have proven that the implementation of plain packaging has not delivered the planned decreases in either the number of smokers or consumption levels.

Yours sincerely,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STANDARDISED PACKAGING CONSULTATION
PO BOX 1120
EXTENSION
611 99 99B

RE: MAIN PACKAGING CONSULTATION

I am an independent retailer and I am very concerned at the proposal of introducing plain packaging on tobacco products. It will make it very difficult to identify different brands and will cause massive confusion for both staff and for customers.

We are responsible in what we sell to as we don't sell to under 18's and the proposal will not deter people from smoking but will only increase counterfeit stock being made available.

Where is the evidence to show that plain packaging will stop people from smoking.

I am totally against plain packaging for now and in the future.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted]
Department of Health standardised packaging consultation
PO Box 1122
Camerbury
CT 6NB

Dear Jeremy Hunt,

I am writing to you to show my disgust at the proposed move to have all tobacco plain packaged. This will have a massive effect on my business as staff will be unable to see what the customer needs quickly hence causing delays, staff giving customers the wrong product and then having to refund it, customers unable to see the brand they want as they can't remember the name, all these things will hold up customers, cause queues and have customers leaving the shop and not coming back because we are too slow - and for what! Something that's going to make absolutely zero effect to the amount of people that smoke or who want to smoke. In fact doing this will only make it more glamorous for young children to smoke as it will look cool as you are trying to stop them. This will lead to children smoking younger and hence more illicit tobacco sold in my area as it's the only way the kids will be able to get it which will in turn lead to more criminal gangs as it will become bigger business.

Having to put pictures on the packets has made no effect on sales but hasn't affected the way I trade but doing this will have even less impact but will massively affect my trade. I just hope you reconsider what is a really stupid idea and is actually going to hurt a lot of people trying to make an honest living and is just a pointless operation to think standardising packaging is going to make a difference is mind blowing ridiculous - hopefully you will see sense.

If you think I am wrong then take a look at others countries such as Australia where it hasn't worked
Re: Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

To whom it may concern,

As an independent retailer, I wish it to be known that I am totally against Tobacco Plain Packaging.

As of April 2015, we will no longer be able to display tobacco products, this in itself is going to cause considerable increases in serving times, without making it more difficult to locate the product by making them all look the same, thus making my business more vulnerable to theft.

We enforce a strong No ID policy on underage sales, as do the majority of retailers. Underage smokers can still access tobacco products from the counterfeit and non UK duty paid supplies, perhaps if you put as much effort into controlling the sale of illegal product we would see a reduction in the sale of these products within the illicit market.

As far as I am aware, evidence from countries that have already implemented this policy have proven that the implementation of plain packaging has not delivered the planned decreases in either the number of smokers or consumption levels.

Yours sincerely,
Tobacco Packs Consultation
Department of Health
7th Floor
WOBINGTON HOUSE
133-135 WATERLOO ROAD
LONDON SE1 8UG

Re: Consultation of Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products

To Whom It May Concern

I am against any introduction of Standardised Packaging of Tobacco. This will only incourage counterfeiters to this. It will allow counterfeiters to earn profits from illegal - fake tobacco. It will reduce takeaway customers freedom to be able to choose a legitimate - legal product.

I look forward to your response.

Yours Faithfully

[Redacted]
Formal Consultation Response to the Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I write this letter in complete opposition to the proposed introduction of plain packaging for tobacco products.

Plain packaging on tobacco products will not work, just as the retail display ban coming into effect on 6th April 2015 will not work.

I am an independent retailer and pride myself on abiding by the ‘NO ID, NO SELL’ ethos. I have never sold a tobacco product to anyone under the age of 18. I am wholeheartedly behind the Government’s aim in improving the health of the nation – however this is not the answer.

Cigarette branding does not influence the youth to smoke, they do it because they see their friends doing it... who see their parents doing it... who saw their parents doing it. Education begins at home, and this is where you should aim your efforts rather than introducing more red tape and bureaucracy to the Independent Retail Trade.

If people were influenced by branding on cigarettes, why do I not smoke? I have stood in front of a cigarette display for 14 hours a day for over 18 years, and have never once smoked. Your claims are unfounded.

An introduction of plain packaging by the UK Government will deliver the industry into the hands of criminals, resulting in a loss of earnings for both the retail trade and the Treasury. In these times of austerity, can we really afford to lose tens of millions of pounds to the black market? I’ll let you answer this.

Yours Faithfully,
Date 30/07/14
To MP Jeremy Hunt MP

Re: Opposition to plain packaging on cigarette packets

Dear Sir,

I run a small convenience store in Tufnell Park (North London) and I am writing to you regarding the plain packaging on cigarette packs for which I understand there is going to be a consultation in the parliament on 7th of August 2014.

I am writing because I am really worried for my livelihood as already our sales have plummeted since having to go dark on the display of the cigarettes.

As it is now we have to spend time opening up and trying to remember where the actual cigarettes are on our blackened display and at least we can identify the brand from its design.

Although we have lost our sales we are getting more concerned that plain packaging will ultimately get the smokers to turn to illegal sellers in pubs and clubs where there is no restriction to who buys and this will lead to extra loss in football through our doors. Ultimately a loss to us, as well as HMRC in lost VAT as well as taxation.

Also I feel that by making it compulsory for plain packaging represents a Nanny State which is far too much as the Adult Consumer is increasingly treated as a child who would not be able to make an informed decision for themselves. For smokers purchasing the packets can already read
Dear Sir,

Re: Proposed plain packaging of tobacco products.

We feel the proposal of the plain packaging will affect our business in a very negative way. We feel not only would it increase delays in the store, but customers will start using the illegal trade which is prevalent in the area. This could lead to reduced staff costs as this is my only variable cost. As we have already been faced at significant inconvenience to cover the unit, which obviously negates any requirement for further restriction within the frame of plain packaging.

Yours Faithfully,
Dear sir,

I disagree with plastic pack as it will frustrate my customers as I need to spend more time serving them. Also, it will increase the price of a cigarette.
To Whom It May Concern Department Of Health,

It is with great concern that I am writing this letter, highlighting my concerns over plain cigarette packaging.

The main concern is that yet again the government are putting another “nail in the coffin” for [redacted] stores that are law abiding citizens such as us and the vast majority of shop keepers. We work 12 hours a day 7 days a week in order to make a living from our stores and I believe that the fundamental reason behind customers coming to us in the first place is because we offer a far superior service than the multi's and customers are confident they will get the legitimate brand they require.

If the new legislation is passed this will deter customers using us, as they will be met with high levels of confusion as the packets will look the same and it will increase our serving times which will have a “knock on” effect to our customers, losing us business.

This coupled with the high volumes of illicit trade that are currently on going will fuel the black market trade, and drive more customers underground. It will have a devastating effect on shopkeepers who undergo legal compliance procedures within the government guidelines to help prevent under age sales and keep crime to a minimum. If plain packets are allowed this will help crime organised gangs to continue if not increase the volume they do.

Regards

[Signature]
Dear [Name],

I am a conscientious retailer in the independent retail sector. I have closely followed legislative implementation of measures to control the supply and sale of tobacco products. I believe we are now about to take a step too far and therefore feel I must voice my concern.

The consultation on plain packaging of tobacco products sets out three additional strains on my business: age checks, fraud and the cost of new packaging. This will place additional strain on my business above that which was created by the display ban which has not been implemented yet. I think it is very misguided of the government to claim that we, as retailers will benefit from a reduction in transaction times; where is the evidence to support this? The truth is, much work will need to be done to identify and train staff and I will need more time to implement.

If retailers are not clear, it will become a significantly more price-driven market as those will be the least-likely to become among my customers. They will also buy twice and my profits will shrink. It is less clear what they currently offer is to continue shopping.

I pay particular attention to the age of those who seek a tobacco product, make use of the 'challenge 25' program, unfortunately the criminal gangs who operate in this market do not care about age. Plain packaging will not be a deterrent to young and drive the market into lower hands. In doing so undermining all the work that has been done to reduce incidents of smoking among younger people.

What happens to freedom of choice and democracy? My business way and most likely will suffer beyond repair should plain packaging come into effect. How this is how we support our small businesses.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Madam,

I am writing in regards to the new plain packaging, as we all know that business is getting harder and harder day by day. I think this will be a big mistake as duty free cigarettes could be sold on the market and this could have a big impact on business, as well as losing cigarette sales there is chances of loosing non cigarette sales as well and I believe this will have a big impact on the market for all retailers and also wholesalers.

I hope you strongly take this into consideration.

Hope to hear from you soon.

[Signature]
(Director)
DEAR SIR,

PLEASE DO NOT HAVE PLAIN PACKS ON CIGARETTES, AS I WILL LOSE CUSTOMERS. IT WILL FUEL THE BLACK MARKET IN COUNTERFEIT AND SMUGGLED TOBACCO. I BELIEVE THIS WILL NOT BENEFIT BY HAVING PLAIN PACKAGES.

THANKING YOU,
Dear Jeremy MP  

It is a formal consultation response  

I don't want plain paper because it frustrate my customers as I need to spend more time seeing them.  

And also incire illegal sale
For the attention of Mr. Jeremy Hunt

Dear Sir,

I am worried about the restricted dark market and the effect this is going to have on my business already next year. With the introduction of plain packaging it is going to be difficult to recognise easily the difference in brands and restocking correctly. This will only affect my profit that is low already due to the high taxes that you collect on cigarettes.

I follow the guidelines with regard to under age selling of cigarettes strictly and I feel that you are using the legitimate retailers as a scapegoat in introducing more policies that will not change children's impressions on smoking.

I would feel better if you had proof that plain packaging would do what you want it to do but you have none and we, the retailer are guinea pigs and losing our livelihoods in the process.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]
Dear Mr Jeremy Hunt,

I am writing this letter to get my point over-of-NOT-HAVING-PLAIN-CIGARETTE-PACKAGING. We as an independent convenience store feel that this is totally out of order as because as of April 2015 doors will be fitted to our tobacco gantry so plain packaging will be of no use other than:

- Increasing illegal sales of tobacco products
- Forcing small stores out of business or laying staff off
- Increasing profits for criminals
- Decreasing government tax off tobacco products in turn putting more taxes on other products

The need to tackle smoking is understandable but PLAIN packaging is not the answer, as this as I have said before will lead to more illegal sales and the trade being forced underground and with so many cuts being made in this country i.e. Customs and excise and police forces I see the illegal trade of tobacco products increasing if PLAIN packaging is introduced.

I understand that you are a busy person but feel this is an issue that could force a lot of businesses out of business and a lot of people out of work.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Director
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

This is a formal consultation response.

I would like to give you my reasons as to why I don't think plain packaging will work. Firstly it will greatly increase the serving time for our staff, also cause major confusion for our staff trying to figure out what pack is what. My main reason is I also think it will greatly increase the number of illegal cigarettes that will come to the UK.

 Regards

Spar
31/07/2014

JEREMY HUNT MP

Dear Jeremy,

This is a formal consultation response to Plain Packaging. The Government is set to lose millions of pounds of revenue because under plain packaging the illegal trade will definitely flourish. Plain packaging will delay service to customers it has had no effect in countries where it has already been introduced. The price of tobacco alone has already become a deterrent for people buying those products and this alone is enough to stop young children buying tobacco.

[Signature/Handwritten]

[Position/Name]
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

This is a formal consultation response. I don't want plain packaging because it will fuel black market sales which can affect my business and will also increase time of seeing customers.
Re: Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

To whom it may concern,

As an independent retailer, I wish it to be known that I am totally against Tobacco Plain Packaging.

As of April 2015, we will no longer be able to display tobacco products, this in itself is going to cause considerable increases in serving times, without making it more difficult to locate the product by making them all look the same, thus making my business more vulnerable to theft.

We enforce a strong No ID policy on underage sales, as do the majority of retailers. Underage smokers can still access tobacco products from the counterfeit and non-UK duty paid supplies, perhaps if you put as much effort into controlling the sale of illegal products we would see a reduction in the sale of these products within the illicit market.

As far as I am aware, evidence from countries that have already implemented this policy, have proven that the implementation of plain packaging has not delivered the planned decreases in either the number of smokers or consumption levels.

Yours sincerely,
Re: Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

To whom it may concern,

As an independent retailer, I wish it to be known that I am totally against Tobacco Plain Packaging.

As of April 2015, we will no longer be able to display tobacco products, this in itself is going to cause considerable increases in serving times, without making it more difficult to locate the product by making them all look the same, thus making my business more vulnerable to theft.

We enforce a strong No ID policy on underage sales, as do the majority of retailers. Underage smokers can still access tobacco products from the counterfeit and non UK duty paid supplies, perhaps if you put as much effort into controlling the sale of illegal product we would see a reduction in the sale of these products within the illicit market.

As far as I am aware, evidence from countries that have already implemented this policy, have proven that the implementation of plain packaging has not delivered the planned decreases in either the number of smokers or consumption levels.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

RESPONSE TO PLAIN PACKAGING CONSULTATION

I am an independent retailer who has owned a business for the last 10 years.

The introduction of plain packaging will fuel the illicit trade in tobacco, consumers will be unable to identify the legitimate product from the illegal pack introduced by criminals.

The transaction times within my store will increase, as staff will take longer to identify the different brands, the majority of my staff have English as a second language and therefore this will compound the issue, as they currently identify the brands by the different colour packs. The products will already be hidden from view, as the Retail Display ban will take effect from 6 April 2015 & consumers will not see the products when they enter the store.

Health warnings will increase to 65% of the pack when the EU tobacco directive comes into force on 16 May 2016, therefore why the need for more regulation.

I am totally against the introduction of plain packaging now and in the future.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]
29th July 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a shopkeeper to explain my opposition to plain packaging of cigarettes.

Plain packaging will lead to lower identification of brands by staff members, which in turn will maximise the length of time the doors are open on the cigarette柜台. I am led to believe that the doors should be opened for as short a time as possible.

I believe that plain packaging will encourage more counterfeiting of cigarettes as the packaging will be much easier to replicate.

Plain packaging will not discourage young...
Objections to Plain Packaging

Our main concerns over the introduction of plain packaging are:

1. The potential for a large increase in smuggling of tobacco products, which not only avoids paying tax and duties but also negates age restriction regulations.

2. Having borne the cost of fitting plain clear cabinets within the industry to hide packaging, it would seem ludicrous to then remove branding.

3. Our opinion is that in the
Dear Mr. Hunt,

I am writing to you today in response to the proposed plan of packaging to be implemented on tobacco products. Surely this is a bridge too far, given that all products are completely obscured by the new screening legislation!!

Hard hit, small retailers like myself will suffer directly, reinventing will be difficult in practice and how on earth will you tackle the obvious window that implementing this proposal will give to the counterfeiters? I believe that plain packs will just drive the market underground. Think of the implications that will arise if this proposal is carried.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Title]
Formal Consultation Response to the Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

I write this letter in complete opposition to the proposed introduction of plain packaging for tobacco products.

Plain packaging on tobacco products will not work, just as the retail display ban coming into effect on 6th April 2015 will not work.

I am an independent retailer, and pride myself on abiding by the 'NO ID, NO SALE' ethos. I have never sold a tobacco product to anyone under the age of 18. I am wholeheartedly behind the Government's aims in improving the health of the nation - however this is not the answer.

Cigarette branding does not influence the youth to smoke, they do it because they see their friends doing it... who see their parents doing it... who saw their parents doing it. Education begins at home, and this is where you should aim your efforts rather than introducing more red tape and bureaucracy to the Independent Retail Trade.

If people were influenced by branding on cigarettes, why do I not smoke? I have stood in front of a cigarette display for 14 hours a day for over 18 years, and have never once smoked. Your claims are unfounded.

An introduction of plain packaging by the UK Government will deliver the industry into the hands of criminals, resulting in a loss of earnings for both the retail trade and the Treasury. In these times of austerity, can we really afford to lose tens of millions of pounds to the black market? I’ll let you answer this.

Yours Faithfully,
I very strongly disagree with plain packs as my trade will suffer and I'm worried about my business.
Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in opposition of the government's ill thought out to introduce Tobacco Plain Packaging. All this will do is create numerous problems for retailers. This will include costs funding your advertising and the cost of having to hire additional staff to deal with slower customers.

We already make no money from selling cigarettes due to the taxes you place upon them.

Independent retailers already have enough difficulties, please do not increase them.

We ensure we carry out all sales in a legal way. Cigarettes are a legal product to adults so we should be able to sell them in the same was as any other age related product.

Yours Sincerely
Dear Sir/

I would like to express my disapproval at the stupid plan to put tobacco in plain packaging to create even more problems. Time wasted, even for the small independent retailer who is already acting as a free tax/duty collector for the government as there is no profit on tobacco as it is! To further burden us to justposing us away from selling tobacco altogether and will push the consumers into going down the duty free purchases on the black market. Show some sense please.
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a retired local Sainsbury's manager and am opposed to their proposed
health plan (precisely how increase stress, time, customer
time and queues which will cause build up customer problems
at convenience stores)

It will also cause more expense of staff, reduced to hit
the market in the UK as it will be easier for them

to meet.

I do not understand why just part of the UK have
implemented this so called plan progressing.
I will find it frustrating that when the law changes that my customers will be unable to see what cigarette products we sell. Counterfeit will be all over our town as plain packaging will not help us! Re-training staff/time consuming will effect my sales, which will not be good for our store.
Dear sir/madam,

Please may I stress that pain alleviation is not a good idea at all. In fact, it will be a hazard for criminals to pack illegal tobacco, which is not good for the government, economy and will also deter people from buying it. They will be a burden on the NHS which we don't want. Because of all the rubbish stuff they are made off, we need people will die of cancers please do think long and hard before you make this decision.

Thank you.
30/7/2011

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

This is a formal consultation response.

I am writing to say I do not agree with plain packaging. It will be a big burden to all retailers and of the retail display ban, which is due to come in April 2015. It will be difficult enough to find cigarette packets once they are behind doors, let alone they all not identical. It will take much longer to find ports, increasing transaction time therefore customers' breathing problem. Eventually, customers will stop coming into the shop for these tobacco brands, reducing footfall which will reduce turnover as cigarette smokers generally purchase additional items.

For these reasons, I am totally against plain packaging.

Look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

[Manager]
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

Consultation on Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products

I am independent retailer and have been in business for 25 years. Plain packaging is an unnecessary regulation. Health warnings will account to 65% of the pack under EU Tobacco Products Directive.

It will take longer for staff to identify product making the transaction not only slower, but more risky. Please point out if no profit in selling cigarettes so you have forced them to the sell. All we want is the ability to sell a little product to one eligible customer. Is that too much to ask?

I am literally against Tobacco Plain Packaging either now or in the future.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt mp

I am writing as a formal consultation response to the proposed plain packaging law.
This will affect my business by increasing illegal tobacco to be sold in my area.
I am a responsible retailer and surely this will hand the initiative to criminals.
I stand to lose over 30% of sales on tobacco due to loss of footfall and the new EU tobacco directive will already have an effect on my business. Plus there has been no evidence from Australia that this how will work.

Yours Sincerely,
Dear Sir,

I do not agree with plain prose for the running record. It is still hard to read with hands which are will be easy for

Sincerely,

T. McGraw
Long Day

Every week, a change week, the will be room for control.

Yours
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a retailer who sells tobacco. I am opposed to standardisation in plain packaging as it would fuel the black market in counterfeited and smuggled tobacco. There would be an increase in the soaring costs for a very small return in profit. The delay ban will also cause this situation.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Sirs

We find it very hard, as independent retailers to understand, why plain packaging on Tobacco products is being introduced. We are already being forced to cover our Tobacco products in the near future. Why then does it matter about the packaging, we employ 5 people in our independent store, and in this economic climate we need all sales we can muster. Tobacco is our leading consumerable and we have in place all age restrictions to ensure no underage sales are made. We make no profit from Cigs as our Tax them, however they create footfall. Simply plain packages will be easier to copy, once again driving towards to fakeness. The packaging should remain the same. Please consider the damage you are causing.

[Signature]

[Company]
Dear Sir,

As regards the inquiry for some ammunition
for cigarettes, I set a difference that this
should be introduced when the cigarettes are
being to be made. Those people who wish to
sell will arrange it, that no illegal will buy
it. It is difficult to identify the cigarettes and
therefore more secure to store them, too.

Only daughter will be in the whole scenario
but the feelings of climate and own
environment. I must feel that this proposal is
only to try my sound mind and not to try
other regions without.
30 Jan 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt, MP

This is a formal consultation response.

I'm the chair whom I share the business with.

My brother, Harry, has had his eyes come through tough times, but has relatively successfully. I think the plan package will be a real threat to my business, but it could be a risk.

In 9% of the cases, the problem it will bring will be more smuggling of tobacco products, and if sales fall, we may have to cut back on staff.

Yours faithfully

[Name redacted]
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

This is a formal consultation response. I have been a retailer in Liverpool for over 25 years. Cig and tobacco account for around 40% of my business. For you to introduce plain packaging will have a significant effect on my business. I do not agree with plain packaging. It will not stop people from smoking. On the contrary, it will give the “counterfeiters” easy opportunities to manufacture illegal cig. This will have detrimental effect on tax revenue and public safety etc.

Evidence in Australia has shown there has been an increase in illicit trade since plain packaging was introduced. This has an effect on all business and government as well. Therefore, I totally oppose plain packaging.

Looking forward to hear of your response.

[Signature]
Dear Sir,

I am really concerned about the introduction of plain packaging for tobacco. This will not prevent under-age smoking in fact will probably make it on our list for easier.

I challenge anyone of you to visit my shop before school on a weekday and you will find no shortage of cigarettes being sold by under-age smokers to our younger under-age smokers in fact as young as 11.

Plain packaging is a cheap Oz conspiracy!
Tobacco laws consultation
Dept of Health
2nd Floor
Western House
133-155 Highcross
Land Aid
31.7.14

Dear Sir

Sincerely,

I am writing to you urging you to reject the new plain packaging regulations which have been published for consultation. I feel that introduction of this will be a big boon for the counterfeiters and ill-get market which only will push sales towards younger underage customers who are not already buying away from our shops. You must be aware that plain packaging has not worked in Australia!!!

Bye ND to twice the thought out legislation.

Yours faithfully
31/07/2014

Tobacco Products Consultation
Department of Health
7th floor
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London
SE1 1UPE

Dear Sirs,

I am concerned about the introduction of plain packaging because: increase in illegal tobacco it will be hard to spot--forget, less of my profit margins due to customers down pedaling because of no brand loyalty and it will face a lot longer for myself and staff to learn because it will be hard to identify the brands.

Yours Sincerely

[Signature]
Dear Jeremy,

I am writing to strongly object the proposals of plain packaging of cigarettes and tobacco products. It is going to cause a lot of confusion and errors for the members of staff to serve the customer with the correct product in order to identify the correct product the unit will have to be kept open longer than normally necessary which may be construed as inadvertent. Law breaking by leaving the consumer exposed to tobacco products contravening the retail display ban. Plain packaging will also be a gift to the counterfeiting industry, it is a well known fact that plain packaging will lead to widespread counterfeiting. This will lead to a loss of revenue for me the retailer and also the exchequer. Finally, there is also going to be a huge increase in criminal activity within the local communities all over the country. I therefore strongly object to the introduction of plain packaging.

Many Thanks
Dept of health
consultation on Plain packaging
PO Box 1126
Canterbury
CT1 9ND

To Whom It May Concern

I am an independent retailer.

Plain packaging is yet another burden on retailers. The display ban has not even come in for small shops, and the Government want to impose even more restrictions.

The Government is supposed to be supporting small shops. Removing brands will make products easier to be counterfeit and undermine a retailer's legitimate trade.
Dept of Health
Consultation on plain packs.
PO Box 1126
CANTERBURY
CT 9ND

I am an independent CTN retailer

The Government is meant to be supporting retailers.

Plain packs is yet another burden on retailers.
The display ban has not gone in yet and now the Government want to impose more restrictions.

The Government is supposed to be supporting small shops.

Owner
Dept of health
Consultation on Plain packs
PO Box 1126
CANTERBURY
CT1 9MN

I am an Independent CTN retailer

The government is supposed to be supporting small shops.

Removing panels will make it easier to fake and undermine legitimate traders.

Plain packs is yet another burden on retailers.

Why would the government want to impose more restrictions.

en
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

This is a formal consultation response.

I am an independent retailer with a busy convenience store in a local community. Within the family we have a total of 4 stores.

If plain packaging becomes legal, this will have a negative affect on business. The reason for my opinion are:

- Smuggling and illegal trade will become more common.
- The law is already regulated in Australia and has had a negative impact.
- Younger customers will be able to buy from illegal traders without question.

In closing I completely oppose plain packaging due to the above. If you wish to visit or discuss this matter further contact me on the above address or alternatively call 01772 827623.

Regards:
30th July, 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

This is a formal consultation. For you will effectively have my business with the introduction of plain packaging. My business has been in existence since 1946 which started to cater for men's ready rolls in the area. The supermarkets have sprung up to the end. I have 2 now to compete with. It's tobacco that keels the ship running.

But more importantly on this note there is 2 Polish smokery who sell illegal tobacco that tobacco is sadly for less than half price and it is to worst health for smoking it you can imagine in the old times we could call it 'Swelling oil'. I am sorry to say it is the worst tobacco that has ever been produced, it comes from China and actually smoked in a vessel so it cannot be detected it cannot be good for your health. But many "tobacco" now adays.

Under the screen was accessible but to make it from packaging is going to be a real tale. I have been here now 33 years, it will be done for cheese and I am too young to retire. Still...
Dear Sunny, Hunt MP

I am writing to say that I am in opposition to the proposed flat tax for companies. The Department for Information, Technology and Economics has already made it clear that we are not in favour of this. It is believed that this will have a detrimental effect on the economy, as it will discourage investment and job creation.

I must also express concern about the plans for a national lottery. The government's plans to privatise the lottery have been widely criticised, and I believe that this will lead to a loss of control over the lottery and a loss of public confidence.

I look forward to hearing your views on these issues.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
A formal consultation response

20th July 2014

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP

I am writing in regards to the ‘New Cigarette Packaging’ coming into place in the coming years. I am a small business shop in a large varied community. Also as I am linked to a post office, I have all kinds of people walking through my door.

I am all up for and very supportive of stopping underage smoking and setting in fines but as I see no reason for the new packaging as from April 2015 all major and minor shops and stores will have doors on the counter which will contain public display. Small shop like myself have enough rules and regulations to follow without more laws coming into place and stressing customer down more.

I have many issues regarding the new packaging as I only have one member of staff on at a time, it will increase shoplifting because if the simple task my staff would always be turned and in some cases longer than a few minutes as I have older customers who are very forgetful and cant easily remember names or packaging. So trying to help them would slow everything down and create unnecessary queues. Also illegal trading would increase as the packaging would be easier to copy and harder to point out if it’s genuine or a fake and because of this the one thing you are trying to stop would be on an increase as it would be easier to buy on the streets.

I look forward to hearing from you.
28th Oct 14

Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,

This is a formal consultation response. I'm the current owner of this successful family business that has been in operation for over 30 years, and 60% of my turnover comes from cigarettes and tobacco. If plain packaging is introduced, I fear that my turnover will be reduced. Plain packaging is an unnecessary additional form of regulation as health warning will already increase by 60% of the pack under the EU Tobacco Products Directive. If all the doors look the same, and they will be banned closed doors, it will take longer to serve customers, which will lead to customer dissatisfaction.

Margins will drop for independent retailers as customers will demand lower prices if they all look the same. Plain packaging will also lead to an increase of counterfitting as posters will be easier to keep. The UK government already has a big issue with counterfitting for these reasons. I oppose plain packaging.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Kind regards,

[Signature]
Department of Health
Standardised Packaging Consultation
To: Box 1/26
Carington
CT 1 9ND

RS: Plain Packaging Consultation Response

Plain packaging will adversely damage my business as it will allow copying of tobacco products. Already certain traders are selling Counterfeit Tobacco as the will merely recycle. As I saw on a Channel 4 documentary these illegal products contain various harmful chemicals and real dangers. Department of Health please take note.

Yours faithfully
Dear Jeremy Hunt MP,
This is a formal consultation response to Plain Packaging.

I feel that Plain packaging is an unnecessary additional piece of regulation, the health warnings are already on the packet.

Customers are likely to downtrade or buy from abroad if the packets all look the same, this means low profit margin or complete loss, if they increase buying from abroad they will not be paying tax on the packets.

I worry that the government is going to make it easy for criminals to copy plain packaging. We work really hard
Department of Health
Standardised Packaging Consultation
Job by 1126
Canterbury
CT1 9D8

Date 23-7-14

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am solely opposed to the potential of a plain packaging bill. It could endanger public health.

We are a small business, well established, whom have been legitimately trading for many years. We are committed to all current legislation and feel that this extra burden will devastate our legitimate business. It will make carrying on viable - who will know what is legitimate or not?

Yours faithfully
Department of Health
Standardised Packaging Consultation
PO Box 1126
Canterbury
CT1 9NB

Re: Plain Packaging Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Introducing plain packaging will adversely affect businesses, mainly because of the impact of illicit trade. The packs will be easy to copy by gangs. Currently I know of a number of outlets selling cheap cigarettes under the counter so no pack design will seriously add to the burden of lost sales which is already being felt. Please consider these factors for legitimate businesses in the United Kingdom.

Yours sincerely,
Ref: Raw Racing, 29/7/14

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have 36 years experience selling tobacco. My wife has 45 years experience. I have 3 boys who have been brought up in the business with easy access to tobacco. I have never smoked, nor has my wife nor my boys. Smoking prevented me from reaching the age of 56.

All plain packs will do is increase an zillion sales of illegal tobacco products.
TO SIR/MACDON

RE: STANDARDISED TOBACCO PACKAGING CONSULTATION

I am opposed to standardised packaging because I think it would have little impact on reducing the number of people smoking. They have introduced standardised in Australia and counterfeit sales have increased. There is no evidence that plain packet would deter smokers, but there is clear evidence that counterfeit sales do increase creating a bigger black market for fake cigarettes.

Yours faithfully
Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to the proposed law on plain packaging, I am deeply concerned that the effects on my business may well put me out of business. I feel the sales process would become more time-consuming with every pack bearing the same educaed herbal adams.

I am also concerned that the supply of illegal tobacco will increase even under the proposed laws. This not only effect my sales and viability of my business, but also the government income from tobacco sales.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed law as we are a free country.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STANDARDISED TOBACCO PACKAGING
To Box 1126
CANTERBURY
CT1 9BS

30 July 2014

Ref: Plain Packaging.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Plain packaging in my opinion is going to have an adverse effect on my business. The hurdle that it will cause is going to affect customer service times for both smokers and non-smokers. This is just another hammer blow for small businesses.

It also worries me about the effect it will have on the supply of illegal tobacco which is not regulated in any way.

"Please don't do plain packs"
As a busy 24/7 service station, I strongly feel that the proposed law will have serious implications to our business from a customer service view and from a legal view.

The working force will be extended what will effect our customer service levels.

The biggest issue that I have is that it is proving a 24/7 service station and 7 day illegal tobacco sales, this is going to foul an already proven fixture.
I would like to make a comment on plain packaging. It is going to make it hard for us retailers and it is time consuming and it will easy for smugglers and it will be very easy for illicit market.
DEPT OF HEALTH
STANDARDISED TOBACCO
PACKAGING CONSULTATION
P.O. BOX 1126
CANTERBURY CT 1214

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to yourselves to express my deep concern at the prospect of plain packaging.

I live and work in a rural area where illicit tobacco sales are very very common. Year on year, I struggle to ensure the viability of my business, especially when tobacco sales make a substantial part of my turnover. Plain packaging is only going to increase illicit sales and counterfeit product which will in turn deliver a devastating blow to my business
RE: Plain Packaging Consultation 30/7/2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to express my concerns at the possible introduction of plain packaging for tobacco. I feel that this step is not needed as at present, we are having clamps introduced on to our units, and by having plain packs behind them will make our staff's job harder and more complicated. On the back of this; it will only help increase the amount of smuggled and illicit product being brought into the country, along with making copying the packs far easier.

This is a negative move both for retailers and for the Government and would urge it to be rethought.
Dear Mr. Hunt,

I am writing in response to the plain packaging consultation and wish to express my concerns as a small businesses owner.

I feel that the government is adding to the large amounts of red tape that is layered upon small business owners. I believe strongly that this is an unwise move as we have not even had the display ban in place.

Finally, we believe that counterfeits cigarette products will definitely increase and as a whole the economy will suffer.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Dear Terry Hurt,

I am writing in response to the consultation for plain packaging of cigarettes. I am an independent retailer already expected to cover our cigarette displays next year but now you are trying to push plain packaging, both having negative impact on the small independent retailer.

Plain packaging makes:
1 - counterfeit products easier to produce
2 - easier to circulate without notice
3 - easier to pawn in to under 18’s

Removing branding will hinder my ability to sell premium brands which none profit although small can be achieved by the small retailer.

Your government claims to support the small retailer. Then support us don’t destroy us. Plain packaging still have no effect on people smoking habits and will aid in underage smokers.

Yours sincerely,
Re: Proposed Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products

To whom it may concern,

As an independent retailer, I wish it to be known that I am totally against Tobacco Plain Packaging.

As of April 2015, we will no longer be able to display tobacco products, this in itself is going to cause considerable increases in serving times, without making it more difficult to locate the product by making them all look the same, thus making my business more vulnerable to theft.

We enforce a strong No ID policy on underage sales, as do the majority of retailers. Underage smokers can still access tobacco products from the counterfeit and non UK duty paid supplies, perhaps if you put as much effort into controlling the sale of illegal product we would see a reduction in the sale of these products within the illegal market.

As far as I am aware, evidence from countries that have already implemented this policy, have proven that the implementation of plain packaging has not delivered the planned decreases in either the number of smokers or consumption levels.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Jeremy Hunt,

Please do a 'u' turn on this plan.

- won't work
- direct sales will increase
- loss of revenue to Government
- loss to my business
  (I am struggling to make ends meet anyway)