

HI&P Documents - Unformatted Document

"Re: Letter and documents for [REDACTED] response to letter from Simon Clark, Forest"

File Reference: TCP/018 Vol 6

File Title: Tobacco Control Plan - Packaging (cross ref: TOQ/005/006/008)

Filed by: [REDACTED] PH3/DOH/GB on 19/10/2012 at 11:11

Created by: [REDACTED] PH3/DOH/GB on 19/10/2012 at 11:09

Original Subject: Re: Letter and documents for [REDACTED]

Recipients: [REDACTED] (SendTo, CopyTo & BlindCopyTo if applicable)

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[REDACTED] PH3/DOH/GB
19/10/2012 11:09

To [REDACTED]@forestonline.org>
cc
bcc: [REDACTED] /OIS/DOH@DOH,
[REDACTED] /OIS/DOH@DOH,
[REDACTED] DWP.GSI.GOV.UK
Subject Re: Letter and documents for [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Clarke,

Thank you for your email below.

Please find the Department's response attached. The original version of the letter was sent to you by post yesterday.



Forest, Oct 2012 final.pdf

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Tobacco Programme Manager
Department of Health

Tel: 020 7 [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Get off cigarettes with NHS support - call 0800 169 0 169 or visit
www.nhs.uk/gosmokefree

[redacted]@forestonline.org>

[redacted]
[redacted]@forestonline.org

To [redacted] PH3/DOH/GB@DOH

>
07/09/2012 09:01

CC

Subject: Letter and documents for Mr Andrew Black

Dear [redacted]

Further to my letters of 30 and 31 August, please find attached a further letter that contains a number of points and questions about the Plain Packs Protect campaign. The letter makes reference to three documents that are also attached.

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this letter and I look forward to a full response in due course.

Your sincerely,

[redacted]
Director, Forest

Forest, Sheraton House, Castle Park, Cambridge CB3 0AX

Telephone 01223 370156 Mobile [redacted]

Follow Forest on Twitter - <http://twitter.com/forest> Smoking

Read my Taking Liberties blog - <http://taking-liberties.squarespace.com>

Forest - www.forestonline.org

Hands Off Our Packs - www.handsoffourpacks.com

(Content modified in mailfile prior to filing since first sent on 19/10/2012 11:09.

Last modified in mailfile: 19/10/2012 11:10)



18 October 2012

Tobacco Programme
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG

[REDACTED]
Director
Forest
Sheraton House
Castle Park
Cambridge CB3 0AX

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 7 September 2012 regarding the consultation on standardised packaging of tobacco products. I apologise for the delay in responding.

You may be interested to know that the Department of Health has received a vast number of responses to the consultation, including postcards and petitions. We are currently in the process of collating and undertaking initial analysis of the responses received.

We will give all responses and petitions the appropriate consideration. We have accepted responses to the consultation, including petitions, postcards and emails, in good faith. We do not intend to conduct general investigations into the way in which particular campaigns were conducted (including those involving collecting signatures on petitions, encouraging people to complete postcards or send emails).

However, when our attention has been drawn to concerns about a particular campaign, we have raised that issue with the relevant organisation and invited them to clarify the position. Nevertheless, I would want to be clear that it is not practicable or necessary for the Department of Health to seek to verify each and every person that has signed a petition, sent a postcard or sent an email to us.

You set out a number of questions in your letter. I will turn to each question now.

You have expressed concern that a number of local councils and NHS bodies have, as you suggest, "actively engaged in wholesale support for the introduction of plain

packaging". You further suggest that these activities contravene the *Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity* ("the code").

The Department of Health does not have responsibility for monitoring adherence with the code. I suggest that if you believe that a local council has contravened the code, you make a complaint directly to that organisation. Similarly, concerns about the activities of any NHS body should be raised directly with them.

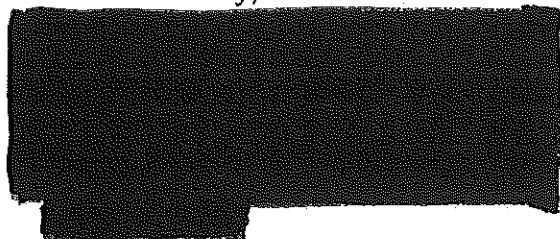
You complain that an agent of the "Plain Packs Protect" campaign was suggesting to members of the public that she was working for the government. This is the first complaint we have received of this nature. Although the "Plain Packs Protect" campaign has pro-actively volunteered information about the way they conducted their campaign, I have written to the organisers to seek further information about the specific questions raised in your letter.

Regarding the direct lobbying of politicians, this is not a matter for the Department of Health. The consultation asked for anyone with an interest to respond directly to the Department of Health via any of the ways set out in the consultation document. We have not suggested that anyone send consultation responses directly to any politician. I suggest that, if you are concerned about any lobbying that has taken place, that you complain directly to the organisations and politicians concerned.

You are concerned about the Avaaz web-based petition. As we are still in the process of collating responses, I am not able to confirm how many responses were received to any particular campaign. This information will be made available in the future. As I set out above, we have accepted responses to the consultation received before the closing date in good faith.

Finally, thank you for your letter of 30 August with your answers to my earlier questions.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the Tobacco Programme Manager.

Tobacco Programme Manager