



Department
of Health

From Jane Ellison MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 4850

PO00000823924

Ms Deborah Arnott
Chief Executive, Action on Smoking and Health
Suites 59-63, New House
67-68 Hatton Garden
London EC1N 8JY

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Dear Deborah

Thank you for your emails of 15 November to David Cameron, Owen Paterson, Dan Poulter and me about illicit tobacco and standardised tobacco packaging. As your letters to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs concern health, they have been passed to this Department and I hope you will accept this as a reply to all of your emails.

I was interested to read your comments on the points raised in Philip Morris' letter and about the report it commissioned from KPMG about the illicit trade in Australia.

As you are aware, we have commissioned Sir Cyril Chantler to carry out an independent review of the public health evidence on standardised packaging of tobacco products. The review will look at the up to date position and will assess whether or not the introduction of standardised packaging would be likely to have a positive effect on public health in England.

The Government will introduce standardised tobacco packaging if, following the review and consideration of the wider issues raised by this policy, we are satisfied that there are sufficient grounds to do so. The Government will consider all relevant aspects of the policy before making a final decision. This includes consideration of the implications for illicit tobacco trade.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Kind regards
Jane

JANE ELLISON