



Rt Hon. Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health & Social Care
Department of Health & Social Care
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Dear Secretary of State,

I wanted to bring to your attention that more than three months after the ban on characterising flavours of tobacco products came into force in respect of menthol flavoured cigarettes, such products are still being produced and made available for sale on a large scale. The lack of regulatory action to date is disappointing; it fails to ensure a level playing field. It is also surprising given the active stance on tobacco regulation this and previous Conservative governments have historically taken.

You may be aware that we have been in dialogue with both Public Health England (PHE) and Buckingham & Surrey Trading Standards in order to try and understand why the law continues to go unenforced in relation to this matter. We have written seven letters to PHE on this regulatory issue, which have included four expert sensory panel reports, one UK consumer report and one final investigation report. We have only received one short reply and to date still have little or no clarity over where PHE believes enforcement responsibility lies in relation to the menthol ban and when appropriate action can reasonably be expected.

Given changes to structure and responsibilities reported in the media, I would be grateful for confirmation that this matter will not fall between departmental cracks. I have enclosed the most recent eighth letter to PHE for your reference.

On a separate note, we recognise the significant amount of work of your department related to COVID-19. Thank you for this.

Yours sincerely,

Duncan Cunningham
Corporate Affairs Director
Imperial Tobacco UK

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