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Our Ref: SUB- 1103-2024

Date: 4 March 2024

Dear *Liz,*

UPDATE ON WESTMINSTER TOBACCO AND VAPES BILL AND PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MOTION

Following my letter of 15 February, I committed to keep you updated on the Executive decision and on all developments with the Bill.

I can now confirm that the NI Executive have since agreed that a Legislative Consent Motion is progressed to allow for NI inclusion in the UK Government Bill. I have written to Minister Leadsom on that basis, and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (The Rt Hon Victoria Atkins) has now confirmed that, in relation to the headline provision of a smokefree generation (ie a ban on sales of tobacco to those born on or after 1 January 2009), the Bill will be drafted with NI inclusion on the face of the Bill in the same way as for the other devolved administrations.

Northern Ireland will also be provided with a number of powers to allow for regulations to be brought before the NI Assembly in order to address the uptake in youth vaping. The detail on the vaping provisions remains as set out in my previous letter.

I therefore intend to lay a legislative consent memorandum before the Assembly once the Bill is introduced in Parliament (which we expect will now be in early March).

I will, of course, continue to keep you updated on any further developments and look forward to further engagement with the Health Committee on these issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robin Swann', written over a light blue horizontal line.

ROBIN SWANN
Minister of Health