

**24 November 2022****Update on the Khan review: making smoking  
obsolete.**

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**Anneliese Hutchinson, Service Director, Economy, Innovation & Growth,  
Gateshead Council**

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**Purpose of the report**

To update the Committee in relation to the Khan review – making smoking obsolete and the independent review by Dr Javed Khan OBE into the government’s ambition to make England smokefree by 2030.

1. In a significant independent review into the government’s current tobacco control policies, led by Dr Javed Khan OBE, looked into whether government will achieve its ambition to make England smokefree by 2030. The Report was published on the 9 June 2022.
2. The Report recognises that although good long-term progress has been made in reducing smoking rates to their lowest ever level, almost 6 million people still smoke in England and smoking is still one of the largest causes of health disparities.
3. This review was commissioned by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and it provides independent, evidence-based advice that will inform the government’s approach to reduce the numbers of people taking up smoking and helping smokers to quit.
4. The review makes 15 recommendations for government to achieve a smokefree society. This includes 4 critical recommendations:

**Increased investment**

5. The Report sets out the case for comprehensive investment now of an additional £125 million per year in smokefree 2030 policies, to fund the easily accessible, high-quality support that smokers need to help them quit. This includes investing an extra £70 million per year in stop smoking services, ringfenced for this purpose.
6. If the government cannot fund this themselves, the Report recommends that they should ‘make the polluter pay’ and either introduce a tobacco industry levy, or generate additional corporation tax, with immediate effect.

**Increase the age of sale**

7. The government must stop young people starting to smoke, which is why it is recommended increasing the age of sale from 18, by one year, every year until no one can buy a tobacco product in this country.

## **Promote vaping**

8. The government must embrace the promotion of vaping as an effective tool to help people to quit smoking tobacco. The Report accepts that vapes are not a 'silver bullet' nor are they totally risk-free but asserts that the alternative is far worse.

## **Improve prevention in the NHS**

9. Prevention must become part of the NHS's DNA. To reduce the £2.4 billion that smoking costs the NHS every year, the NHS must deliver on its commitments in the Long-Term Plan. It must do more, offering smokers advice and support to quit at every interaction they have with health services, whether that be through GPs, hospitals, psychiatrists, midwives, pharmacists, dentists, or optometrists. The NHS should invest to save, committing resource for this purpose.

## **Other recommendations**

10. The Report calls upon the government to introduce a tobacco licence for retailers, to limit the availability of tobacco across the country. There should be a fundamental rethink of the way cigarette sticks and packets look, to reduce their appeal. A smokefree society should be the social norm, which is why there should be even more smokefree places (in hospitality and outdoor places where children congregate), where people cannot smoke.
11. Investing in a well-designed mass media campaign will help create this smokefree culture, while encouraging smokers to quit. Substantially raising the cost of duties (more than 30%) across all tobacco products will also encourage smokers to quit, by increasing the cost of smoking. Abolishing all duty-free entry of tobacco products at our borders.
12. The Report also asks the government to accelerate the path to prescribed vapes and provide free Swap to Stop packs in deprived communities. Alongside this they should do everything they possibly can to prevent children and young people from vaping, including by banning child friendly packaging and descriptions.
13. The Report recognises to achieve all of this, it will also be important to tackle illicit tobacco, which often sells tobacco cheaply and to underage young people.

## **Recommendation**

14. The Committee is asked to note the information. Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-khan-review-making-smoking-obsolete>

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Contact: Tracey Johnson, Gateshead Council on 0191 4333934 or email [traceyjohnson@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:traceyjohnson@gateshead.gov.uk)

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