



Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London SW1A 2AS

8th May 2013

Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

Standardised “Plain” Packaging of Tobacco Products

I attach a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister signed by leading members of the Smokefree Action Coalition. As you will see, we were very disappointed that the Government has not proceeded with legislation requiring tobacco products to be sold in standardised packaging at the present time. We believe that the case for standardised packaging is overwhelming, and that delay in its introduction is unacceptable.

Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease, killing more than the next six causes of preventable death put together, including obesity, alcohol and illegal drugs. Half of the 100,000 dying each year from smoking are in middle age with many years of productive life in front of them. It is highly addictive with two thirds of smokers becoming addicted before the age of 18, and nearly 40% before the age of 16, with around 570 children aged 11-15 taking up smoking each day.

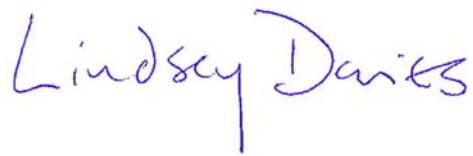
Standardised packaging for tobacco products has long been supported by the Liberal Democrats and is also strongly supported by those voting Liberal Democrat. Indeed in the last Parliament the Liberal Democrats proposed an amendment at the committee stage of the Health Bill 2009 to bring in plain packs for all tobacco products. Most recently the Liberal Democrats in Scotland passed a motion at conference supporting such legislation. We would therefore strongly urge you to continue to press for the introduction of this important public health measure in this parliamentary session.

We would be happy to meet you to discuss the matter further or to supply you, your officials and your Party colleagues with any further information or evidence you might require. We look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Clare Gerada
Chair of Council
Royal College of General
Practitioners

Dr Mark Porter
Chair of Council
British Medical Association



Professor Lindsey Davies
President
Faculty of Public Health



Graham Jukes
Chief Executive
Chartered Institute of Environmental
Health



Simon Gillespie
Chief Executive
British Heart Foundation



Francine Bates
Chief Executive
The Lullaby Trust



Dr Hilary Cass
President
Royal College of Paediatrics and
Child Health



Dr Janet Atherton
President
Association of Directors of Public Health



Harpal Kumar
Chief Executive
Cancer Research UK



Sir Richard Thompson
President
Royal College of Physicians



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Leon Livermore
Chief Executive
Trading Standards Institute



Dr Peter Carter
Chief Executive and General
Secretary
Royal College of Nursing



Penny Woods
Chief Executive
British Lung Foundation



Deborah Arnott
Chief Executive
Action on Smoking and Health

Please respond c/o ASH, New House, 67-68 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JY