

It is encouraging to see that this approach is being supported by Health and Wellbeing Boards with the development of the NHS Statement of Support for the Declaration. I am happy for the following Ministerial statement to be used to promote further support for the Declaration:

As Minister for Public Health, I am pleased to see so many local authorities signing up to the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control. This is a public facing commitment that effective tobacco control is a priority area for action. Signing the Declaration also commits local authorities to protect local tobacco control measures from the vested and commercial interests of the tobacco industry. This is to be welcomed. It is heartening to see this approach being adopted across the NHS through the NHS Statement of Support. I fully endorse this and wholeheartedly encourage all local authorities and NHS bodies to sign up.

Please contact Yemi Fagun in my office to make the necessary arrangements for my signature to be added to the Declaration. Her contact details are:

Tel: 020 7210 5109

Email: Yemi.Fagun@dh.gsi.gov.uk

I hope this reply is helpful.

Kind regards
Jane

JANE ELLISON

I do apologise that this reply has taken so long to reach you! J



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

PO00000834644

Ms Deborah Arnott
Chief Executive, Action on Smoking and Health
Suites 59-63
6th Floor, New House
67-68 Hatton Garden
London EC1N 8JY

24 FEB 2014

Ms Deborah

Thank you for your letter of 9 January asking me to add my signature to the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control and to endorse the approach set out in the draft NHS Statement of Support.

You will know from my remarks during the debate on tobacco control in the Children and Families Bill that I firmly believe local authorities are best placed to address the public health priorities within their local communities. The very serious levels of harm and premature deaths caused by smoking mean that we must keep effective tobacco control at the heart of local public health strategies. Local authorities that sign the Local Government Declaration signal their clear commitment to prioritising tobacco control and this also enables local communities to hold them to account against that commitment.

I am particularly pleased to see that the Declaration contains a clear statement that commits local authorities to protect their tobacco control work from the commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with Article 5.3 of the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The Government is committed to promoting Article 5.3 and I welcome this commitment to counter tobacco industry interference in public health policy.

I am aware that the Chief Medical Officer signed the Local Government Declaration last year, as did my predecessor as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health. I am happy to lend my support and for my signature to be added to the Declaration.