

Public Health White Paper: No going back on Smokefree England



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The Government has published its White Paper on public health:

[Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England.](#)

The White Paper sets out the Government's proposals for setting up a Public Health Service including the outline of a tobacco control strategy. A full plan is promised within months. In the meantime the Government makes it clear that:

- it will not compromise smokefree legislation,
- it will implement the ban on vending machines as planned,
- it will make an announcement very soon on point of sale displays and
- it will consult on plain packaging.

In an earlier statement, Andrew Lansley had acknowledged that: "The evidence is clear that packaging helps to recruit smokers... It's wrong that children are being attracted to smoke by glitzy designs on packets."

Pointing out that the NHS spends over £2.7 billion a year on treating smoking related illness, but less than £150 million on smoking cessation, the White Paper confirms that reducing smoking rates remains a priority for public health, and provides more details of the transfer for public health, including smoking cessation, to Local Authorities.

On the heels of the commitment from the Government to implement the ban on vending machines in England as planned comes the news that Sinclair Collis, a subsidiary of Imperial Tobacco and the major operator of tobacco vending machines in the UK, have had their challenge of the ban [rejected](#) in the High Court. They are planning to appeal.