

All Party Parliamentary Group
on Smoking and Health



Annual Report 2024/25

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About the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Smoking and Health is a cross-party group of MPs and Peers founded in 1976, and currently co-chaired by Bob Blackman MP and Mary Foy MP. Its agreed purpose is to monitor and discuss the health and social effects of smoking; to review potential changes in existing legislation to reduce levels of smoking; to assess the latest medical techniques to assist in smoking cessation; and to act as a resource for the group's members on all issues relating to smoking and public health. The secretariat of the group is provided by Action on Smoking and Health.

This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its committees. All-Party Parliamentary Groups are informal groups of Members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues. This report was written by Action on Smoking and Health who provide the Secretariat for the APPG and approved at the AGM for 2025/26.

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Foreword: Bob Blackman MP and Mary Foy MP

Co-Chairs of the APPG on Smoking and Health

This has been a significant and eventful year for the APPG on Smoking and Health. The Group began the year with disappointment that the Tobacco and Vapes Bill did not make it through Parliament before the dissolution of the previous Conservative Government. However, we were encouraged to see a firm commitment to the legislation reflected in the Labour Party Manifesto and subsequently in the new Government's King's Speech.

The return of a strengthened Tobacco and Vapes Bill to Parliament in November 2024 marked a moment of real progress for public health in the UK. Members of the APPG across both Houses have been actively engaged throughout this process- providing expertise, scrutiny, and cross-party support to ensure the Bill delivers on its ambitious aims. The proposed legislation represents a landmark step towards a smokefree future, and its scope and intent have already attracted international recognition as world-leading in the field of tobacco control.

The APPG continues to play an important role in championing evidence-based policy and maintaining political consensus on the need to end the harm caused by tobacco. We are proud that cross-party commitment to tobacco control remains strong, and that Parliament is united in recognising the importance of protecting future generations from the devastating impacts of smoking.

A key moment of the year was the publication of the APPG's latest report A Roadmap to a Smokefree Country: no one starts, everyone stops, no profit in tobacco. This laid out, clearly, what should be included in a Government strategy on tobacco to ensure that the 6 million current smokers in the UK are supported to quit. It is essential that no one is left behind from a smokefree future.

Public support for action has never been clearer. The British public overwhelmingly back measures to reduce smoking rates and to prevent young people from ever starting. With this level of public and political will behind the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, we are optimistic that the coming year will see decisive progress towards making the ambition of a smokefree generation a reality.



Bob Blackman MP and Mary Foy MP
Co-Chairs of the APPG on Smoking and Health

Summary of APPG activity this year

This Annual Report covers the dates 15th October 2024- 14th October 2025.

The APPG on Smoking and Health exists to monitor and discuss the health and social effects of smoking; to review potential changes in existing legislation to reduce levels of smoking; to assess the latest medical techniques to assist in smoking cessation; and to act as a resource for the group's members on all issues relating to smoking and public health.

The Secretariat is provided by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), a public health charity that receives funding from Cancer Research UK and the British Heart Foundation. When the APPG has hosted events this year, these were paid for by ASH.

October 2024

We held our AGM and Mary Foy MP (Labour) and Bob Blackman MP (Conservative) were elected as Co-Chairs of the APPG in a show of the strong cross-party support that exists for the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. Alongside the AGM we hosted an [event](#) with smoking survivors, engaging with new MPs on the topic of smoking and ensuring that those with lived experience had a chance to share their story in Parliament.

November 2024

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill returned to Parliament which was very much [welcomed by APPG members](#). As the Bill had been strengthened there was much debate and discussion about new elements and we were pleased to see many of the amendments that we had submitted to the previous version of the Bill had now been adopted.

[Second reading](#) was held on the 26th November and APPG members Bob Blackman MP, Mary Kelly Foy MP, Jim Dickson MP, and Beccy Cooper MP spoke in support of the legislation.

December 2025

APPG members put their names forward to be on the Bill Committee for the Tobacco and Vapes Bill.

January 2025

Committee stage for the Tobacco and Vapes Bill began in the Commons with four APPG members on the Committee: Jim Dickson MP, Mary Kelly Foy MP, Sadik Al Hassan MP and Dr Beccy Cooper MP.

APPG members tabled a number of amendments to the Bill including mandatory age verification, regulation of cigarette filters, requiring health warnings on individual

cigarettes, a polluter pays levy and requiring the tobacco industry to publish sales data.

APPG members met with Public Health Minister, Andrew Gwynne, to discuss their motivations behind these amendments.

March 2025

The APPG Co-Chairs met with the new Public Health Minister, Ashley Dalton, to welcome her to her new role.

This month the Tobacco and Vapes Bill Report debate took place in the Commons. APPG members spoke in support of the legislation and tabled amendments on the regulation of filters, banning online sales of tobacco, removing smokefree exemptions for performances and a requirement for the Government to publish a roadmap to a Smokefree Country.

April 2025

The Bill was introduced to the Lords and APPG peers met with Minister Baroness Merron to discuss the legislation.

On [Wednesday 2nd April](#) the APPG hosted an event in Parliament to launch our latest report **[A Roadmap to a Smokefree Country: No one starts, everyone stops, no profit in tobacco](#)**. Minister Baroness Gillian Merron spoke at the event alongside APPG co-Chairs, Mary Kelly Foy MP and Bob Blackman MP, Sebastian Rees from the IPPR and two lived experience speakers, Gillian and Wendy. There was a real sense of hope and ambition and a great appreciation of the opportunity that the Tobacco and Vapes Bill brings but that it does not mean 'job done'.

Later in the month the Tobacco and Vapes Bill had second reading in the House of Lords. APPG Members Lord Rennard, Baroness Northover, Lord Young of Cookham, Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, Lord Bethell, Lord Faulkner of Worcester and Baroness Finlay of Llandaff all shared their expertise in the debate.

10 out of the 40 peers who spoke backed the APPG's call for a polluter pays levy on tobacco companies.

May 2025

APPG members in the House of Lords began tabling amendments to the Tobacco and Vapes Bill including a requirement for the Government to publish a roadmap to a smokefree country (inspired by the APPG report), introducing a polluter pays levy, making all pavement licences smokefree and introducing health warnings on individual cigarettes.

June 2025

APPG Co-Chairs wrote to the public health Minister, Ashley Dalton, to congratulate the Government on the latest smoking and pregnancy (SATOD) data which showed that the target had been met. They warned of becoming complacent and raised concerns about ICB funding for smoking cessation services now that the ringfence has been removed.

July 2025

In the Sir David Amess Summer Adjournment debate APPG Co-Chair Bob Blackman MP expressed his concern that a date had not yet been found for the Tobacco and Vapes Bill to start Committee in the House of Lords. He noted the urgency of the legislation to regulate nicotine pouches and stop the illegal marketing of heated tobacco products- citing data from Action on Smoking and Health that shows that awareness of these products is rising amongst young people.

September 2025

APPG Co-Chair Mary Kelly Foy wrote to [the Guardian](#) in response to a piece they published on prevention, calling for a polluter pays levy on tobacco companies.

October 2025

APPG Co-Chairs wrote to the BBC to lodge a complaint regarding their platforming of a British American Tobacco executive on a business podcast, arguing that it breaches the BBC's Editorial Standards on impartiality, campaigning and policy debate, accuracy, harm and offence and fairness.

Alongside this activity our members have been busy tabling written questions in Parliament, speaking on panel events at conference and supporting their local stop smoking services in their communities, being true champions for smoking cessation and tobacco control.

The APPG looks forward to the coming year. We will be supporting the Government with the Tobacco and Vapes Bill and any further regulations and continuing to campaign to ensure that the 6 million current smokers in the UK are supported to quit.