

# All-Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health: Activity from January 2020 to April 2021

## New members since 2020 AGM:

- Mary Foy MP
- Owen Thompson MP

## Total APPG membership:

- 30

## March 2020 – [Minister commits to protect public health policy from tobacco industry interference](#)

Responding in an adjournment debate to a question from Bob Blackman MP, the Public Health Minister, Jo Churchill MP, reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting public health from the commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry in line with the UK's obligation to Article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The debate was tabled by Bob Blackman MP after leaked documents showed that Philip Morris International (PMI) was attempting to subvert the government's tobacco policy.

## July 2020 - [APPG roundtable on Smokefree 2030 attended by the Minister](#)

In July 2020, the APPG on Smoking and Health hosted a virtual roundtable to announce its endorsement of the Smokefree Action Coalition's [Roadmap to a Smokefree 2030](#), and discuss the action needed to secure the government's [ambition](#) for England to be smokefree by 2030. During the meeting, the Public Health Minister Jo Churchill MP and Shadow Public Health Minister, Alex Norris MP, spoke in support of the importance of working cross-party to deliver this ambition.

## December 2020 - [Minister announces new Tobacco Control Plan](#)

In response to a Parliamentary written question from Bob Blackman MP, the public health Minister, Jo Churchill, confirmed to Parliament that the government has agreed to develop a new Tobacco Control Plan to help deliver a Smokefree 2030, with an expected delivery date of July 2021. This was one of the key asks in the [Roadmap to a Smokefree 2030](#), which has been endorsed by the APPG.

## Jan 2021 – [APPG Chairman writes to Chancellor with recommendations for the Budget](#)

In January 2021, Bob Blackman MP wrote to the Chancellor recommending that the HM Treasury raise the annual tobacco tax escalator from 2% above inflation to 5% above RPI. The letter also recommends that cuts made to the public health grant since 2015/16 should be reversed in real terms, and that the grant should be increased by a minimum of £2.6 billion to provide additional investment in the most deprived areas where there is the greatest need. The Chancellor decided not to further increase tobacco duty after doing so in the 2020 Budget and November Spending Review. The expectation is that there will be a Budget in Autumn 2021 when excise duties, including tobacco, will be reviewed in the usual way.

## February 2021 - [Joint APPG meeting: delivering a smokefree start for every child](#)

In February 2021, the APPG on Smoking and Health and the APPG on Baby Loss held a joint virtual meeting, marking the launch of a new report from ASH and the Smoking in Pregnancy Challenge Group: [Getting back on track: delivering a smokefree start for every child](#). Bob Blackman MP, Chairman on the APPG on Smoking and Health, welcomed the recent announcement from the Public Health Minister, Jo Churchill MP, of a new Tobacco Control Plan to be published in summer 2021. The Minister emphasised the central role of the new strategy in delivering the smokefree 2030 ambition and reiterated her support for tackling smoking in pregnancy. The Shadow Public Health Minister, Alex Norris MP, and Cherilyn Mackrory MP, Co-chair of the APPG on Baby Loss, spoke in support of tackling smoking in pregnancy as part of rebuilding the public's health.