



Fixed Penalty Notices – Single Use Vapes

January 2025

Introduction to Scottish Environment LINK

Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment community, with over 40 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society.

Its member bodies represent a wide community of environmental interest, sharing the common goal of contributing to a more sustainable society. LINK provides a forum for these organisations, enabling informed debate, assisting co-operation within the voluntary sector, and acting as a strong voice for the environment. Acting at local, national and international levels, LINK aims to ensure that the environmental community participates in the development of policy and legislation affecting Scotland.

LINK works mainly through groups of members working together on topics of mutual interest, exploring the issues and developing advocacy to promote sustainable development, respecting environmental limits. This consultation response was written by LINK's Sustainable Economy Group.

1. Response

Do you have any feedback on the proposed introduction of fixed penalty notices for offences under The Environmental Protection (Single-Use Vapes) (Scotland) Regulations 2024, the Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Scotland) Regulations 2021, the Environmental Protection (Cotton Buds) (Scotland) Regulations 2019 and the Environmental Protection (Microbeads) Regulations 2018?

Scottish Environment LINK members support the proposals to allow enforcement officers to issue fixed penalty notices in relation to the sale of single-use vapes. Single-use vaping products are responsible for significant resource waste including the use of lithium and other metals necessary for the transition to Net Zero, as well as consisting largely of fossil-fuel derived plastic. Additionally, single-use vapes are the fastest growing litter item in Scotland.

The banning of single-use vapes is a necessary and proportionate measure and it is appropriate that penalties are introduced for any trader in breach of these regulations. As well as regulatory provision, the Scottish Government must also ensure that local authorities are adequately resourced and otherwise supported in enforcing these regulations.

This response was compiled on behalf of LINK Sustainable Economy Group and is supported by:

Action to Protect Rural Scotland

Friends of the Earth Scotland

Keep Scotland Beautiful

Marine Conservation Society

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