



MPs vote to ban smoking for anyone born after 2008

Legislation passes second reading in Commons as Streeting says it will 'come down on the vaping industry like a ton of bricks'



The legislation also includes a ban on vape advertising and sponsorship (Photo: Nicholas T.Ansell/PA)

Kat Brown

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MPs have voted 415 to 47 to back the second reading of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, which [bans sales of tobacco products](#) and cigarette papers to anyone born on or after January 1 2009.

Health Secretary [Wes Streeting](#) said the bill would “come down on the [vaping industry](#) like a ton of bricks” as he defended plans to create a “[smoke-free generation](#)”.

The legislation also includes a [ban on vape advertising](#) and sponsorship, including displays [seen by children and young people](#) such as on buses, in cinemas and in shop windows, bringing them in line with tobacco restrictions.

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The Liberal Democrats claimed the bill “raises issues of civil liberties” but ultimately allowed their MPs a free vote.



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Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch and former home secretary Suella Braverman were among the 47 MPs to vote against the bill, according to the division list.

There was a free vote for Tory MPs, with former health secretary Victoria Atkins among the 23 Conservatives who voted in favour of the Bill, and 35 voting against it.

The division list also showed seven Liberal Democrats and four Reform MPs opposed the

Bill.

Conservative MP Andrew Rosindell said “banning things very rarely works”, and asked why people were not being allowed to make their own responsible choices.

In reply, Streeter [highlighted tobacco](#) as “uniquely addictive, uniquely harmful”.

He said: “There is no freedom in addiction, and the logical extension of the libertarian argument he puts forward would be the end of the ban on indoor smoking.”

Conservative MP Bob Blackman called for the legislation to go further and include a levy on tobacco companies’ profits to hold them responsible “for the [blight on our population’s health](#)”.

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He said: “Both of my parents died from [smoking-related cancer](#). My late mother was only 47, and she was a very heavy smoker all her life. I was then left as a 23-year-old with three younger sisters to bring up as a family.

“I don’t want any families in this country to have to go through what our family went through then. So this for me is personal, as well as political.”

Earlier in the debate, Streeter told the Commons that the Government would consult on [banning smoking outside schools](#), hospitals and playgrounds as part of the bill, but that would not be extended to pubs and other outdoor hospitality spaces.

The legislation also includes powers to introduce a licensing scheme for retailers to sell tobacco, vape and nicotine products in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Shopkeepers found to be selling to anyone under age will receive on-the-spot fines of £200.

Health minister Andrew Gwynne said: “Most retailers already follow recommended practice and regularly ask customers for ID.

“We are stopping people from ever starting smoking, and 83 per cent of smokers start before the age of 20, this means that someone who has never previously smoked is highly unlikely to want to take up smoking later in life.

“And our published modelling shows that smoking rates in England for 14 to 30-year-olds could be close to 0 per cent as early as 2050, with the measures in this bill.”