

## **Title**

DHSC: Smokefree Generation Fixed Penalty Notice and Disposable Vapes Ban Trading Standards Officer training.

## **Short description**

On the 4 October 2023, the Prime Minister [announced](#) his plan to create a 'smokefree generation', by ending cigarette sales to those born on or after 1 January 2009. The Tobacco and Vapes Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on 20 March 2024 to take this plan forward.

As part of this plan, enforcement activity will be strengthened, including additional support for Trading Standards for tobacco and vaping enforcement at the retail level. Training resources will need to be provided to Trading Standards Officers on new powers for local authorities to issue 'on the spot fines' (Fixed Penalty Notices) to enforce the age of sale legislation of tobacco products and vapes, as well as powers for local authorities relating to a planned ban on disposable vapes if this passes through Parliament.

## **Description of the procurement**

This early request for information/expression of interest exercise is being made publicly available to any organisations which have expertise in developing training courses for Trading Standards Officers in new legislation.

DHSC is seeking to secure a supplier who will develop and deliver training courses on:

- (1) the new powers for local authorities to issue 'on the spot fines' (Fixed Penalty Notices) to enforce the age of sale legislation for tobacco products and vapes, currently being considered by Parliament under the Tobacco and Vapes Bill.
- (2) the legislation and powers for local authorities relating to a ban on disposable vapes, which is expected to come into force in April 2025.

The purpose of this exercise is to help DHSC design training programmes for Trading Standard Officers in order to ensure that they are competent and comfortable in issuing Fixed Penalty Notices and understand the ban on disposable vapes. The courses should be run online, as the staff will be trained in different Local Authorities across the country. We would expect the provider to manage the materials used for the courses, and also manage the promotion of the training to Local Authority Trading Standards

staff, booking of staff onto the training. We would also like qualitative feedback to be collected on the training provided and given to DHSC.

The Primary requirements of this project are:

- An understanding of the role of Local Authority Trading Standards, and experience in training Trading Standards Officers to deliver enforcement and compliance action.
- An understanding of how to interpret legislation into training for Trading Standards Officers to use to support enforcement and compliance. (The contract holder will provide information on the new legislation which the training should be based on, and can answer queries on the interpretation of the new measures.)
- The ability to develop and deliver training to Trading Standards Officers in England, which will result in staff having a high quality understanding of what the new legislation means and build confidence in enforcing the new powers.

The Secondary requirements of this project are:

- Combination of interactive learning opportunities and resources that can be accessed at the trainee's need.
- Resources to test the trainee's understanding of the courses once finished.

## **Budget**

The maximum budget available for this requirement is £50,000 for the Training of Trading Standards Officers on the new Fixed Penalty Notices powers and the Disposable Vapes ban.

## **Timeline/Key Dates and contract term**

We are looking for the training to be ready in advance of the new laws coming into effect. In order to train staff to be ready for the introduction of new Fixed Penalty Notices fines (which will come in to force two months after the Tobacco and Vapes Bill receives Royal Assent) and the disposable vapes ban (which will come into force in April 2025), the training should be delivered 2-4 weeks before the laws come into force.

Please note that the contract will specify terms that the funding will only be sent for the two elements of the training (1) if the Tobacco and Vapes Bill receives Royal Assent or (2) if the Defra-led disposable vapes ban SI for England passes. If either of these pieces of legislation does not pass

through Parliament, the training will not be needed. The contract will not be signed until the workstreams pass through Parliament.

**Process of engagement**

Please register your interest by completing the short questionnaire using this link <https://forms.office.com/e/ExduvDj4Cy> by 12pm on Tuesday 4th June 2024.