

Single-use vapes ban

To: To: ALL APSE contacts England, Scotland., Northern Ireland and Wales.

1. Executive Summary

A ban on the sale and supply of single use vapes, also known as disposable vapes, came into effect in the UK on 1 June 2025. This ban applies to all single-use vapes, regardless of whether they contain nicotine, and includes sales both online and in physical stores. The ban is part of a wider effort to protect public health and the environment by reducing the accessibility of vaping products to young people and tackling the waste generated by disposable vapes

2. Key points

The government has banned the sale and supply of single use (disposable) vapes in the UK from 1 June 2025. One major driver for this policy is the growing street litter and environmental hazard posed by used disposable vapes, many of which contain hazardous materials like lithium batteries and heavy metals. [An estimated 5 million disposables are discarded weekly, contributing to litter, pollution, and fire risk in waste systems.](#)

In the past disposable vapes are frequently discarded on pavements, in parks, and drains. Councils spend significant time and resources collecting vape litter, which is small, hard to retrieve, and often breaks apart. Disposables in public bins contaminate general waste streams and present a fire risk when compacted in waste trucks or bins. Littered vapes contribute to unsightly streets and street scene.

It is hoped the ban will lead to the reduction in vape-related street litter volume and associated clean-up costs, improved cleanliness scores in public surveys and environmental audits as well as less fire risk from vape battery ignition in street bins and waste vehicles.

Summary of the anticipated impacts of the ban

1. Reduced Litter Collection Demand

- Single-use vapes are currently a major and growing source of street litter, especially in urban and high-footfall areas.

- Post-ban, local authorities should see a reduction in vape-related litter in parks, pavements, drains, and public bins.
- This may ease pressure on street cleaning teams and lead to improved cleanliness scores.

2. Safer Waste Handling

- Disposable vapes contain lithium batteries, which pose fire and chemical hazards when crushed in refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) or compacted in bins.
- Fewer vapes in household and public bins should reduce bin fires, explosions, and equipment damage—improving operator safety.

3. Increased WEEE Take-back Volume

- With disposable vapes banned, reusable vape systems will grow in popularity. These products must be disposed of under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations.
- **This can lead to increased volume of:**
 - Small electronic devices (reusable vapes),
 - Batteries and pods, and
 - Packaging containing nicotine residues.
- **Local authorities may need to:**
 - Expand WEEE collection points or events,
 - Partner with retailers on take-back schemes,
 - Educate residents on where and how to recycle reusable devices safely.

4. Vape Disposal

- Councils may see short-term increases in vape disposals at HWRCs (household waste recycling centres) or through illegal dumping.
- Proactive communication with businesses can encourage responsible disposal through registered waste contractors.

5. Public Engagement & Enforcement

- **Councils may need to support or co-lead awareness campaigns about:**
 - Why vapes shouldn't go in the bin,

- How to safely dispose of reusable products,
- Fire risks associated with lithium batteries.
- Opportunity for councils to reinforce anti-littering and public health messaging, particularly around reducing youth vaping.

APSE Comment

APSE welcomes the announcement; the ban presents an opportunity for the decrease in vape-related litter on streets, in parks, and in drains, reduction in fire hazards caused by lithium batteries in bins and waste vehicles as well as cleaner public spaces and possible reduction in street cleansing costs which will be a positive outcome for councils as well as an improved the senescence.

[The harm created by single use e-cigarettes can be further explored in our previous APSE briefing.](#)

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