

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartais
Cabinet Secretary for Justice

Micheal Matheson BPA
Michael Matheson MSP

F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot



Margaret Mitchell
Convener,
Justice Committee
c/o Justice Committee Clerks
Room T2.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

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The Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Amendment Rules 2017 (SSI 2017/393)

Thank you for your letter of 12 December 2017, seeking additional information regarding whether the rule enabling a prison officer to instruct a prisoner to stop smoking 30 minutes before a cell certification check and the target to make all prisons smoke free by November 2018 will apply to nicotine vapour products. It may be helpful if I address each issue separately.

Cell Certification Check

The rule enabling a prison officer to instruct a prisoner to stop smoking 30 minutes before a cell certification check will also apply to nicotine vapour products.

Smoke Free Prisons

The Scottish Prison Service has advised it is likely that the target to make all prisons smoke free by November 2018 will not apply to nicotine vapour products. However, discussions and consultation is ongoing, with clarification on SPS' approach anticipated shortly.

I will provide an update to the Committee in the early part of this year, once the final decisions have been taken.

MICHAEL MATHESON

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot