UK Vaping Industry Association

Susannah Hancock
National Fire Chiefs Council,
71-75 Shelton Street,
Covent Garden,
London,
WC2H 9JQ

11 March 2026

Dear Ms Hancock,

As the trade body representing the UK vaping industry, we were deeply saddened by the destruction caused by the recent fire in Glasgow, which has been confirmed as having started in a retail outlet selling vapes amongst other things.

While this appears to be an isolated incident and reportedly involving a store that was not registered to sell vapes, one such event is one too many. We are therefore keen to work with the fire service nationally, alongside other relevant authorities and bodies responsible for ensuring the safety of retail environments, to help prevent any recurrence.

While we await the outcome of the investigation into the cause of the fire, we would very much welcome the opportunity to engage with the National Fire Chiefs Council to ensure that, in the meantime, we are doing everything possible to advise our retail members on any immediate steps they should take to confirm that appropriate safety measures are in place in their premises. We are already aware of retail members having sent circulars to their stores immediately following the fire to reiterate fire and battery safety measures.

Once the cause is known, we would also welcome the opportunity to work closely with you and the relevant authorities to identify any lessons arising from the Glasgow incident that can be learnt to ensure that such an event does not happen again. We are also working with the British government on the introduction of a mandatory retail licensing scheme, proposed as part of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill which is currently before Parliament. This goes beyond the Scottish registration scheme and we believe it could provide an effective mechanism for supporting robust compliance with fire safety requirements in vape retail stores across the UK in the future.

In the meantime, we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

John Dunne
Director General
UK Vaping Industry Association

34 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HL, United Kingdom

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