

UK bans disposable vapes: Here is how Nottingham is reacting

By **buraeraidris** -



The number of disposable single-use vapes thrown away in the UK soared from 1.3 million to nearly five million per week in 2023. (Image credit: Buraera Ahsen)

The UK has officially banned single-use vapes to reduce environmental damage and youth vaping. In Nottingham, health experts, business owners, and the Trading Standards team comment on the impact and future challenges.

The number of disposable single-use vapes thrown away in the UK soared from 1.3 million to nearly five million per week in 2023. Around 33% of 16-18-year-olds who vape discard their vapes in the bin at school or work. An estimated amount of lithium equal to that of 5,000 electric vehicle batteries is thrown away every year as a result. (as per Material Focus)

As of Sunday, June 1, the UK has officially banned single-use disposable vapes, in a legislation implemented by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. The move is driven by environmental concerns, threats to wildlife, and the rise in youth vaping.

The new legislation makes it illegal to stock, sell or even offer single-use vapes, also known as disposable vapes. The law applies to all retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers, importers and even stop-smoking services.

In England, failure to comply will result in the Trading Standards issuing a stop notice, a compliance notice or a fine of £200. Repeated attempts to stock, sell or supply these devices after the first offence may lead to being charged with an unlimited fine or a prison sentence of up to two years.

The NHS states vaping is not suitable for children and young people, as their developing lungs and brains mean they are more vulnerable to its negative effects. Most vapes contain nicotine, which is an addictive substance difficult to quit once a habit forms. According to the [British Medical Association \(BMA\)](#), vape use among 11–17-year-olds has increased nearly sixfold over the past decade.

Health professionals in Nottingham have welcomed the move

Dr Andrew Fogarty, Clinical Associate Professor from the Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences at the University of Nottingham, a clinical epidemiologist and a member of the Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre's respiratory team, supports the government's decision.

Comparing the devices to traditional cigarettes, he said: "In established older smokers, vapes are safer. But in young people, they are a public health risk as they are addictive and will have harmful health impacts."

On the question of how effective the ban will be in reducing access, he added: "It should have an impact, but it depends on enforcement and if disposable vapes are available on the black market."

Professor David Strain, chair of the British Medical Association's board of science, echoes [these concerns in a press release](#): "An industry so obviously targeting children with colours, flavours and branding, to push a product that can lead to nicotine addiction and potential further harms cannot be allowed to continue."

However, some aren't convinced this ban will work as intended.

Rimsha, a university student and vaper, said: "I'll just buy a rechargeable one with pods, so really, they aren't banning it at all."

Sara, a mother to a young adult, thinks it's high time. She said: "It's good that the government are taking this step, it's just become a dangerous trend among young kids."

How is this ban being enforced in the city?

Nottingham City Council's Trading Standards team is responsible for enforcing the legislation around the sale of age-restricted products, including vapes. Additionally,

the team ensures that retailers comply with tobacco and related products regulations and product safety standards.



Catia Freitas, a Trading Standards Officer, said the team is preparing to enforce the new regulations by working closely with local businesses to ensure they understand the changes. This includes providing guidance to retailers, conducting inspections, and responding to reports of non-compliance.

"We'll also be liaising with national bodies to ensure our approach aligns with broader enforcement strategies," she added.

Freitas acknowledged several challenges ahead: "Identifying non-compliant retailers can be difficult, particularly if the products are being sold under the counter or through informal networks. Limited resources for proactive inspections also pose a challenge, as does distinguishing between legal and illegal products in some cases."

A rush to buy before the ban and its impact on businesses

News of the ban sparked panic buying and hoarding, with many vape shops selling out their stock well before June 1.

Manish Jakhar, from Cloud and Candy vape shop in [Nottingham](#), said they sold all the disposable stock 3 days before the ban took effect in what was a frenzy.

Despite the change, he believes this law will not have a tremendous impact on the business (sales). "Our long-term customers using single-use disposable vapes will be converting to reusable ones, helping us cover costs. And I believe it is better for the environment with no more batteries lying on the ground."

What's next?

A new vaping duty is set to be introduced on 1 October 2026. It will be charged at a flat rate of £2.20 per 10 ml of vaping liquid. At the same time, tobacco duty will rise to maintain the financial incentive for cigarette smokers to switch to vaping.