



Department
of Health

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Mr M. Evans
Director, UK Public Affairs
Goddard Global
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3 April 2013

Dear Mr Evans,

Proposed European Tobacco Products Directive

On 13 March 2013, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and I appeared before Sub-Committee F of the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union's inquiry on the proposed European Tobacco Products Directive.

During the hearing Lord Blencathra, a member of the Select Committee, provided the Minister with a copy of a letter from Mr Peter Sheridan and Mr Roy Ramm addressed to the Chairman of the Select Committee, in which they set out their views on the possible unintended consequences of the proposed Directive.

The Minister said that the Department of Health would reply to Messrs Sheridan and Ramm but their letter did not provide any reply address. I understand from the Select Committee Clerk that you acted as an intermediary and sent the letter on behalf of Messrs Sheridan and Ramm. I also understand that Goddard Global support an organisation known as the "Common Sense Alliance", of which Mr Sheridan is Director and Mr Ramm is a founding member. As you know, the Select Committee Clerk confirmed with you that this information could be passed to the Department of Health.

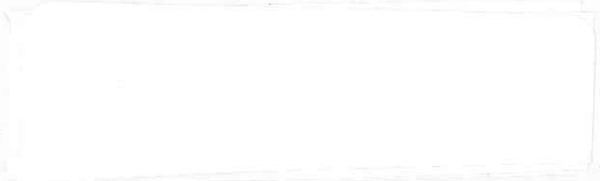
To assist the Department in replying to the letter, it would be very helpful if you could clarify whether the letter was sent on behalf of the Common Sense Alliance. If so, please could you provide some more information about the organisation, including for example, its aims and objectives.

In addition, you may be aware that the United Kingdom is a Party to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). As a Party to this treaty, the United Kingdom is obliged to protect public health policies on tobacco control from the commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry. I notice from the Common Sense Alliance website that the organisation is supported by British American Tobacco. Mindful of the United Kingdom's treaty obligations, it is DH policy to maximise the transparency of our dealings on tobacco control with external organisations. More information on the FCTC, including the treaty and implementation guidelines, is published on the web at: www.who.int/fctc

I would be grateful, therefore, if you would tell me more about the nature of the support and funding that the Common Sense Alliance and its office bearers receive from the tobacco industry, and what that funding is used for. For the same reason, I would also be grateful to know whether Mr Sheridan, Mr Ramm or Goddard Global receive any funding or payment from the tobacco industry, separately from any funding or payment that may be received by, or through, the Common Sense Alliance.

I look forward to hearing from you. I have copied this letter to the Clerk of the Select Committee for information.

Yours sincerely,



Tobacco Programme Manager