Dear committee members,

Re: the impact nicotine vaping products have had on smoking rates in these countries (in England), and the aggregate population health impacts of these changes in nicotine consumption

We lead the Cancer Research UK funded Smoking Toolkit Study, which involves a monthly survey of new samples of approximately 1,700 adults each month since 2006 and provides insights into smoking cessation trends in England. We have published a number of papers that are relevant to this topic. Key papers include:

Individual-level
Jackson S, Kotz D, West R, Brown J. Moderators of real-world effectiveness of smoking cessation aids: a population study. Addiction. 2019.

Conclusion: Use of e-cigarettes and varenicline are associated with higher abstinence rates following a quit attempt in England. Use of prescription of nicotine replacement therapy is also associated with higher abstinence rates, but only in older smokers, and use of websites only in smokers from lower socio-economic status.

Population-level
West R, Shahab L, Brown J. Estimating the population impact of e-cigarettes on smoking cessation and smoking prevalence in England. Addiction 2016 (which updated: Beard E, West R, Michie S, Brown J. Association between electronic cigarette use and changes in quit attempts, success of quit attempts, use of smoking cessation pharmacotherapy, and use of stop smoking services in England: time series analysis of population trends. BMJ. 2016;354:i4645.)

Conclusion: Changes in prevalence of e-cigarette use in England have been positively associated with the overall quit rates and quit success rates but not clearly associated with the prevalence of quit attempts and mean cigarette consumption.

Modelling
Levy, D. T., Sánchez-Romero, L. M., Li, Y., Yuan, Z., Travis, N., Jarvis, M. J., Brown, J., and McNeill, A. (2020) England SimSmoke: the impact of nicotine vaping on smoking prevalence and smoking-attributable deaths in England. Addiction, https://doi.org/10.1111/add.15269."

Conclusion: An indirect method of simulation modelling indicates that substantial reductions in smoking prevalence occurred in England from 2012–2019 coinciding with the growth in nicotine vaping product use.

We have previously contributed to a Science and Technology Select Committee inquiry in England on this topic. The report is available here: https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmsctech/505/50502.htm, which includes links to our written evidence (http://data.parliament.uk/WrittenEvidence/CommitteeEvidence.svc/EvidenceDocument/Science%20and%20Technology/ECigarettes/written/75276.html) and oral evidence (https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmsctech/505/50511.htm#_idTextAnchor059)

Best wishes,
Jamie
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Cancer Research UK Programme: www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology-health-care/research/behavioural-science-and-health/research/ucl-tobacco-alcohol-research-group-utarg
Latest trends on smoking and alcohol in England: www.smokinginengland.info and http://www alcoholinengland.info
SPECTRUM Collaboration: www.spectrum.ac.uk