

The Tobacco Manufacturers' Association (TMA) is the trade association for tobacco companies that operate in the UK. We are comprised of three member companies: British American Tobacco UK Limited, Gallaher Limited (a member of the Japan Tobacco International Group) and Imperial Tobacco Limited. This transparency statement sets out the core principles shared by the TMA and its member companies, and the issues we campaign on with our member companies.

Core Principles

- We believe that the choice to smoke tobacco is one that should only be made by informed, consenting adults.
 - Children should not smoke and should be discouraged from doing so. We support proportionate regulation in this area, such as the UK Government's 2007 decision to increase the legal age of purchase for cigarettes and tobacco products from 16 to 18 years of age. We are committed to preventing under-18s from accessing tobacco and support a range of youth access prevention measures such as the work of CitizenCard – the UK's leading proof-of-age scheme – and promote the display of "No ID, No Sale!" at the point of sale.
 - We support further action to prevent age-restricted products from falling into children's hands, such as making the proxy purchasing of cigarettes and tobacco products for under-18s in England & Wales a criminal offence (as it is in Scotland, and in the UK for the purchase of alcohol). We also support the confiscation of tobacco from young people by police and police community support officers under the [Children and Young Person Act 1933](#)⁽¹⁾
 - We believe that adults who choose to smoke tobacco should do so with consideration for the views and proximity of other people, especially children. We also believe that the informed adult choice to smoke is accompanied by a responsibility to properly dispose of packaging and to safely extinguish and appropriately dispose of each and every cigarette butt.
- We recognise that tobacco is a controversial product, and that there are associated and well publicized risks to health⁽²⁾. However tobacco is also a legal product and tobacco manufacturers are legitimate businesses that directly and indirectly support over 70,000 jobs in the UK and contribute more than £12.3 billion a year to the UK Treasury.
 - We believe that the tobacco industry should be appropriately and effectively regulated, but that democratic legislation should be made on the basis of necessity and not from disapproval of legitimate lifestyle choices.
 - We believe that the effectiveness of tobacco regulation should be regularly evaluated, and that the National Audit Office should review tobacco regulation to see if stated aims have been achieved and to assess the impact of such regulation on businesses in the UK.
 - We believe that tobacco regulation should be evidence based, proportionate, in line with the 'Better Regulation' principles, and developed through open and transparent consultation with a range of stakeholders.
 - We are committed to constructive, open and transparent engagement with the Government on a range of issues including, among others, the illicit trade in tobacco, taxation and youth access prevention.
 - We believe that Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control provides no basis for the exclusion of the tobacco industry from the regulatory process, including where we interact with politicians on matters that directly affect or impact our member companies' businesses in a way that complies with relevant laws and is transparent.

(1) As updated Paragraph 7 of Schedule 4 to the Police Reform Act 2002

(2) Further information about individual company positions can be found on their websites

(3) Illicit trade is the production, import, export, purchase, sale or possession of goods failing to comply with the law

(4) HMRC upper estimate

- We are committed to the fight against illicit trade³ in tobacco and support a range of initiatives to address the problem. For example, each of our member companies:
 - *Has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with HMRC on countering the illicit trade of cigarettes and tobacco products, which deprives the Treasury of up to £2.9 billion⁴ annually – the equivalent of the Metropolitan Police annual budget – including £500 million lost to crossborder shopping.*
 - *Regularly attends meetings with HMRC and shares intelligence with HMRC, UKBA and the Treasury in order to tackle smuggling.*
 - *Has entered into a cooperation agreement with the EU to collectively tackle the problem of illicit trade by working alongside the European Commission's Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and various law enforcement agencies of EU Member States. Our member companies are helping to fund the fight against illicit trade with combined contributions of \$900 million between 2010 and 2030.*
- We are committed to raising public and stakeholder awareness on the dangers of illicit trade. For example:
 - *Tobacco smuggling is known to be tied to organised criminal gangs who are also involved in drug smuggling, terrorism and people trafficking.*
 - *It harms the legitimate business of local retailers.*
 - *It undermines efforts to prevent children from accessing tobacco.*
 - *Illicit tobacco is unregulated, of variable quality and may contain ingredients that are not in the Department of Health's approved additives list.*
- We believe that the high level of taxation on tobacco in the UK compared to neighbouring countries is a significant cause of the illicit trade. On some brands, excise and VAT forms up to 90% of the total price, and consumers are persuaded to buy illicit tobacco because they are substantially cheaper.
- Further details about our individual member companies' codes of conduct and responses to policy consultations can be found on each of their websites, along with further information on their work on a range of topics such as tackling litter, harm-reduction research and products, corporate social responsibility, community investment and environmental sustainability.

Our Campaigns

We support transparent lobbying, and the TMA's response to the recent Government consultation on a statutory register of lobbyists can be found on the TMA's website (address provided below). We actively campaign to:

- Call on the Government to make the proxy purchasing of tobacco products illegal for under-18s.
- Support the use of sanctions against retailers who break the law by selling tobacco to under-18s.
- Work with policy makers and law enforcement agencies to raise awareness about their power to confiscate tobacco from under-16s, and encourage the use of such powers.
- Remind governments and policy makers that illicit tobacco and underage access to tobacco is frequently provided via social sources (e.g. proxy purchase by friends and family) and through illegal sellers.
- Support the use of sanctions against rogue retailers who break the law by selling illicit tobacco.
- Raise awareness with policy makers that the heavy taxation of cigarettes and tobacco products in the UK is a factor in driving the illicit trade in tobacco.
- Call on governments to increase the sanctions for tobacco smuggling and to provide further support to HMRC and law enforcement agencies to tackle illicit trade.

Further information, including downloadable factsheets on a range of tobacco industry topics, can be accessed via the TMA website:

www.the-tma.org.uk

www.bat.com

www.imperial-tobacco.com

www.jti.com

*The Tobacco Manufacturers' Association (TMA) is the trade association for tobacco companies that operate in the United Kingdom. Our members are British American Tobacco UK Ltd, Gallaher Ltd (a member of the JTI Group of companies) & Imperial Tobacco Ltd. The TMA's prime function is to represent the views of its members when communicating with Government, authorities and others on issues of shared interest and concern.