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Your Ref:
Our Ref:

Date: 03/09/25



Jenny Gilruth MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
(By e-mail)

MATT WRACK
GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Jenny,

I am writing to you for an update on the Scottish Government's plans to end the sale of energy drinks to children and young people.

The Scottish Government formal consultation "Ending the Sale of Energy Drinks to Children and Young People" closed some time ago now, on 4th February 2020 (for quick ease of reference, our submission is attached).

NASUWT is in full support of a ban on the sale of energy drinks to children and young people. The Union has led national campaigns to raise awareness of the negative implications of the consumption of these products, which have significant health risks, and the NASUWT believes that it is not responsible for the Government to continue to allow retailers to sell energy drinks to children and young people.

Today's announcement that the Westminster Government intends to ban the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks to under 16s in England was warmly welcomed but it is disappointing that there was not a similar announcement made in relation to Scotland.

Teachers and school leaders continue to see first-hand on a daily basis the contribution energy drinks can make to poor pupil behaviour and pupils' ability to concentrate in class.

In our most recent behaviour survey, teachers were asked if they were concerned about the pupils they teach misusing energy drinks and 89% said they were concerned about this behaviour in school while 64% said they were concerned about pupils misusing energy drinks outside of school.

While the voluntary bans which have been implemented by many major retailers are helpful, we believe they do not go far enough to protect children and young people's wellbeing and statutory regulation to introduce a blanket ban is needed.

A ban should be just the start of a programme of wider public health work. Children may still be able to obtain these drinks from their parents or other adults were a ban enacted, therefore, we also believe better public health campaigns to make adults and young people more aware of the harms energy drinks may cause are needed.

I look forward to hearing from you soon with positive news in relation to the Scottish Government's timeline for banning energy drinks.

All the best,

Mike Corbett

National Official (Scotland)

