



T : 0300 244 4000
E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mike Corbett
Mike.Corbett@mail.nasuwt.org.uk

Our Reference: 202500483254
Your Reference: energy drinks

25 September 2025

Dear Mike Corbett,

Thank you for your email of 3 September 2025 addressed to the Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills, regarding the sale of energy drinks to under 16s in Scotland. I am responding to you because the responsibility for this policy sits within my portfolio as Minister for Public Health and Women's Health.

Thank you for responding to our previous consultation on ending the sale of energy drinks to children and young people. I recognise that the consumption of energy drinks remains a significant concern to parents, teachers and young people.

You may be aware that our [consultation analysis report](#) and [evidence brief](#) were published on 30 May 2023. At this time, I outlined in a parliamentary statement that we did not think the evidence base was sufficiently developed to pursue mandatory measures but that we would remain open to new evidence as it arises.

Scottish Government recognise that regular consumption of these drinks has been linked with a number of health harms including headaches, tiredness, and problems with sleeping. However, there are limitations with the evidence on consumption patterns in children and young people in Scotland which isolates energy drinks as a particular issue compared with other high caffeine alternatives such as coffee. Our approach is to ensure that any proposals for legislation are proportionate, and evidence based.

We continue to support voluntary measures to restrict the sale of energy drinks to children. This includes in schools, NHS sites to under-16s and in community leisure UK-member sites. We will keep under review how these measures could be strengthened.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot



I welcome the UK Government consultation on Energy Drinks. My officials continue to engage with the UK Government and other devolved nations on this topic and will carefully consider any new evidence presented, which could update our policy position. This includes findings from the current consultation in England and the Impact Assessment published alongside.

You may be interested to know that we are currently developing a Diet and Healthy Weight Implementation Plan to support our [Population Health Framework](#) which was published on 17 June 2025. My officials will consider the outcomes of the UK Government consultation and any new evidence relating to energy drinks as part of the development process for our Plan.

I note your support for a ban on energy drinks to under 16s and I recognise that our current position on this policy may be disappointing. However, I hope my reply provides reassurance that Scottish Government will keep our position on energy drinks under review and we will consider any new evidence presented to us on this topic.

Yours sincerely



JENNI MINTO

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG
www.gov.scot



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