Dear AM

I am writing this to you before you deliberate on the Public Health Wales Bill, especially with regards to the proposals surrounding e-cigarettes.

Previously I have responded to the Welsh Government and your HSCC consultation process,watched the various evidence sessions on Senedd TV and consider myself quite well informed on the subject.Subsequently, I am totally at a loss that the most important stakeholders in the whole process have been largely ignored regarding evidence giving :- the consumer!
Which has the greatest impact for an AM:-a lengthy detailed consultation letter or a face to face meeting with consumer representatives that the NNA (New Nicotine Alliance) http://nnalliance.org/ could and should have provided, and still hope that this omission can even at this late stage be addressed

To summarise my personal story and how it will be impacted by the provisions of the bill, and crucially how current smokers will be impacted

Personally :- I am 62yo and a 40/day smoker over a 45 year period, who had tried and failed with traditional (and ineffective for me) NRT and other treatments such as Chantix,hypnotherapy, Allen Carr book ….etc I had literally given up trying to give up and felt condemned to smoke for the remainder of my days.
Purely by chance I discovered e-cigarettes, and with some good research over a few weeks period I purchased a highly recommended starter kit, lo and behold within a few days my smoking habit was solved,and I can truthfully say I have not smoked since that date
Massive health and financial benefits have ensued but virtually instantly after discovering this hugely effective solution, I started to read about attempts to over-regulate :- the TPD2 had just been introduced by the commission and rapporteur(similarly watched on Europarl TV)
Regulators,whether in the EU or Wales are not the experts in the matter of e-cigarettes,naturally they require advice and guidance from a variety of sources.
Unfortunately, it seems that the Welsh Government has been rather selective at the advice it considers relevant,but I shall not expand upon this.
So asking the question how will it impact upon me

1) Visits to my local public house and cafe will cease, which will have an impact also on them
2) The ability to persuade smokers of the virtues and benefits will be much reduced in a social setting, this will have an impact also on them,as I have converted at least 50 smokers away from the habit
3) I will refuse to stand outside with smokers - my days of being stigmatised are over!

How this will impact smokers

1) Message sent by the Welsh Government is that there is something amiss with e-cigarettes, despite 56,000 sole e-cigarette users which represents virtually half of all successful quit attempts since 2011, despite zero verbal or otherwise

encouragement from the Welsh Government,Public Health Wales, Stop Smoking Wales

2) Even if only a handful of smokers do not convert to e-cigarettes because of the Public Health Bill it will be a tragedy and a total abuse of the so called precautionary principle

Without me rehashing all of the evidence sessions , it was quite apparent to me that detailed evidence was given by Professors Bauld,Britton, Hajek and the RCP, in comparison to the fact free opinions from the BMA and FPH(who actually are signatories to the Public Health England landmark report which refers to indoor bans)

I simply ask you in summary, weigh up the evidence in an impartial manner, evidence of the fictional normalising and gateways do not exist in reality,but a very real risk of halting the progress of e-cigarettes to existing smokers most certainly does.The idea that this is a ‘modest’ proposal is totally inaccurate, it simply indicates how the Welsh Government views e-cigarettes as part of a problem,not as part of a solution to the so called tobacco epidemic,unlike in all of the remaining parts of the UK.

Yours faithfully

G.A.Beard