Living Well
North Tyneside
Supporting Health and Wellbeing

**What is the new law on the sale of tobacco?**
From the 1 January 2027, a new law is coming into place which will make it illegal for shops and other retailers in the UK to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009.

This law is part of the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 and will help create the UK's first smoke-free generation.

**What is changing under the new law?**
Currently, retailers across the UK can legally sell cigarettes and other tobacco products to anyone aged 18 or over.

From 1 January 2027, this will change. The new age-of-sale law will make it illegal to sell tobacco products, herbal smoking products or cigarette papers to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009, even after they turn 18.

It will also be an offence for anyone aged 18 or over to buy these products on behalf of a person born on or after 1 January 2009. This means that, in the UK, it will never be legal to sell tobacco to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009, now or at any point in the future, creating the UK's first smoke-free generation.

**This law will apply to:**
• All tobacco products (this includes cigarettes; hand rolling tobacco; cigars; cigarillos; pipe tobacco; waterpipe tobacco, such as shisha; nasal tobacco, commonly known as snuff; chewing tobacco; heated tobacco; tobacco blunts).

• Herbal smoking products (this includes herbal blunts; herbal cigarettes; herbal shisha).

• Cigarette papers.

**Why is the Government making this change?**
The ultimate aim is to protect future generations from the harms of smoking.

Around 83% of smokers start smoking in their teens. Starting young makes it easier to become addicted to nicotine an much harder to quit later in life.

By preventing young people from starting to smoke, the new law aims to create the first smoke-free generation and reduce the number of smoking-related cancers and deaths in the future. Smoking addiction has devastating consequences. In the UK, around 75,000 people die from smoking-related illnesses each year. On average, that's 205 deaths a day, or 1 death every

7 minutes.

https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/tobacco-vapes-act/

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