



**FSS Seirbhís Náisiúnta Sláinte  
Comhshaoil**

Páirc Ghnó na Gaillimhe, An Daingean,  
Gaillimh

**HSE National Environmental Health  
Service**

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Ms. Carol Nolan TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Nolan,

The Minister has referred PQ ref 3666/25 to the Health Service Executive for a direct reply. Please see response to your PQ below.

**Question:**

To ask the Minister for Health for detailed guidance to retailers on the operation of the new licensing system for tobacco and vapes, including details of how to register and deadlines for registration; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**Response:**

The HSE National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) is responsible for the implementation of Section 11 of the Public Health (Tobacco Products and Nicotine Inhaling Products) Act 2023, which governs licensing.

In preparation for the commencement of licensing on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026, the HSE NEHS is currently liaising with the Department of Health Tobacco and Alcohol Unit concerning the establishment and operation of a mechanism for retailers of tobacco products and nicotine inhaling products to apply annually to the HSE for a licence to sell such products. In addition, the NEHS is currently developing a bespoke online portal system through which retailers will apply annually to the HSE for a licence for both premises and website retail sale of tobacco products and nicotine inhaling products.



Furthermore, in Q1 of this year the NEHS is sending out to all premises known to the HSE that are retailing tobacco products and nicotine inhaling products, a letter which provides information on licensing. The letter states that in February 2026, registration will be replaced with an annual licensing system and that it will be legal requirement to apply annually to the HSE for a licence to sell tobacco products and/or nicotine inhaling products. The letter also contains information on the annual licence fee.

As part of this planning and implementation process the NEHS will develop and disseminate guidance and information to retailers and potential licensees in advance of the commencement date.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Dr. Maurice Mulcahy**  
**Regional Chief Environmental Health Officer**