

Safeguarding Children Information Update
Live Consultations
Updated 12th September 2018

Have your say on the Offensive Weapons Bill (28/06/18)

Do you have relevant expertise and experience or a special interest in the Offensive Weapons Bill, which is currently passing through Parliament?

If so, you can submit your views in writing to the House of Commons Public Bill Committee which is going to consider this Bill.

The Public Bill Committee is now able to receive written evidence. The sooner you send in your submission, the more time the Committee will have to take it into consideration.

Closing date: 13th September 2018

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2018/june/have-your-say-on-the-offensive-weapons-bill/>

Relationships (and sex) education and health education (19/07/18)

DfE is seeking views on draft regulations, statutory guidance and a regulatory impact assessment for relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education.

DfE is proposing that schools are required to teach relationships education at primary school, relationships and sex education at secondary school and health education at all state-funded schools.

The draft regulations and associated statutory guidance build on the findings from the call for evidence and DfE's engagement with a wide range of expert organisations and interested parties.

The responses to the consultation will help inform any further refining of the draft regulations and statutory guidance before the regulations are put before Parliament and the guidance finally published.

Closing date: 7th November 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/relationships-and-sex-education-and-health-education>

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/>

Open consultation - The sale of energy drinks to children (30/08/18)

Energy drinks are soft drinks that contain higher levels of caffeine than other soft drinks and may also contain a lot of sugar (though low- or zero-calorie energy drinks are available). Evidence suggests that excessive consumption of energy drinks by

children is linked to negative health outcomes such as headaches, sleeping problems, irritation and tiredness.

Under current labelling rules, any drink, other than tea or coffee, that contains over 150mg of caffeine per litre requires a warning label saying: 'High caffeine content. Not recommended for children or pregnant or breast-feeding women'. Despite the warning labels, however, children are still consuming these drinks; recent evidence shows that more than two thirds of UK children aged 10-17, and nearly a quarter of those aged 6-9, are energy drink consumers.

We are hearing strong calls from parents, health professionals, teachers and some industry bodies and retailers for an end to sales of high-caffeine energy drinks to children. Many larger retailers and supermarkets have voluntarily stopped selling energy drinks to under-16s. While we recognise the efforts of retailers who have already acted, there are still many retailers who continue to sell these drinks to children. Legislating to end the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks to children would create a level playing field for businesses and create consistency, helping ensure that children do not have access to energy drinks in any shop.

We are therefore consulting on ending the sale of energy drinks to children, but we are aware that the evidence base around these products and their effects is complex. We want to use this consultation to gather further views and evidence on the advantages and disadvantages of ending the sale of energy drinks to children, and on alternative options, before making a decision.

Closing date: 21st November 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ending-the-sale-of-energy-drinks-to-children>

<https://consultations.dh.gov.uk/obesity/sale-of-energy-drinks-to-children/>