

## MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT VOTE AGAINST TOBACCO

Cigarette vending machines could soon disappear from the UK after MPs agreed to **ban** them. MPs also voted to **ban** the **display** of cigarettes in shops, despite strong opposition to the Government's proposals from the Tories.

Former Cabinet minister Mr McCartney said the approval of his **ban** proposal on vending machines "was going to change history." Condemning tobacco vending machines as an "unacceptable mistake in our country's struggle to prevent thousands of children suffering illness and premature death," he protested that tobacco was still "the only product in Britain that can be sold legally, which routinely kills and injures its customers."

Mr McCartney's amendment to the law was passed without a vote and Health Secretary Andy Burnham said the Government would not oppose the measure. The move has been greeted as a brave one and welcomed by health activists and anti-smoking campaigners, including the British Heart Foundation which has been campaigning for a **ban** on vending machines in pubs.

Deborah Arnott, chief executive of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), said: "Stopping tobacco sales from vending machines has made a strong **bill** even stronger. We wouldn't tolerate other age-restricted products such as alcohol or knives being sold in this way. This prohibition means that a **lethal** and addictive product will no longer be easily accessible to children".

Harpal Kumar, Cancer Research UK's chief executive, added: "We are delighted that MPs have voted to protect young people from tobacco marketing. Putting tobacco out of sight in shops and removing cigarette vending machines will help reduce the number of young people taking up a **lethal** addiction: tobacco kills half of all long term users."

Conservative Party member Phillip Davies expressed concern over proposals for a **ban** on the **display** of cigarettes, particularly during the recession when shops could suffer from a lack of business. He said: "As someone who was a shop-keeper for 12 years before entering Parliament, I can tell you that tobacco is not bought on an impulse in the same way that cakes are." His party's attempt to allow shops to continue displaying cigarettes was defeated by 288 votes to 180.

Before last night's vote, thousands of newsagents **threatened** to boycott the Labour Party at the general election if the **display** legislation was passed. They said the measure would put hundreds of small shop-keepers out of business. Pub industry bodies such as the British Beer and Pub Association have said that the measures are another obstacle to an already aggravated pub industry. A spokesperson from the BBPA said: "It's unnecessary, and will make life even more difficult for our **publicans**. Vending machines are well supervised, and governed by a strict code. **Publicans** are well used to selling a product restricted by age, and don't need further restrictions."

But Health Minister Gillian Merron said: "Today's children might be tomorrow's smokers—these new plans will help to ensure that we make sure they are not. Protecting young people from a lifetime of addiction and possible death from smoking-related diseases is crucial as is supporting smokers who want to quit. It is encouraging to know that MPs agree on this."

Text adapted from *Mail Online* (October 2009)

**ban:** prohibir, prohibició / prohibir, prohibición

**display:** exposar, tenir a la vista / exponer, tener a la vista

**bill:** projecte de llei / proyecto de ley

**lethal:** mortal

**to threaten:** amenaçar / amenazar

**publican:** propietari (regent) d'un pub / dueño (que regenta) un *pub*

## Part 1: Reading comprehension

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is possible.

[0.5 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.16 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

		Espai per al corrector/a		
		Correcta	Incorrecta	No contestada
1.	According to the article, under the new UK Government's law... <input type="checkbox"/> tobacco will no longer be displayed at points of sale. <input type="checkbox"/> tobacco will be forbidden by the Government. <input type="checkbox"/> tobacco machines will be allowed in bars and shops. <input type="checkbox"/> all vending machines will soon disappear in the UK.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Mr McCartney condemns tobacco vending machines because he thinks they... <input type="checkbox"/> are a serious danger to children's entertainment. <input type="checkbox"/> have contributed to change history. <input type="checkbox"/> legally provide a product that causes death. <input type="checkbox"/> prevent children from suffering illness and premature death...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Health and anti-smoking activists have long been campaigning... <input type="checkbox"/> to stop the presence of tobacco machines in pubs. <input type="checkbox"/> to restrict tolerance in the sales of alcohol and knives. <input type="checkbox"/> in favour of free access to pubs. <input type="checkbox"/> to join the British Heart Foundation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Deborah Arnott welcomes the new legislation because she thinks... <input type="checkbox"/> it reinforces the existing law against easy access to addictive products. <input type="checkbox"/> tobacco is more lethal than any other addictive drug. <input type="checkbox"/> it will make dangerous products accessible to children. <input type="checkbox"/> the Government will forbid children from using vending machines.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	According to Harpal Kumar, Cancer Research UK's chief executive, <input type="checkbox"/> the new law will reduce the percentage of addictions amongst youngsters. <input type="checkbox"/> the new law will not protect young people from smoking. <input type="checkbox"/> all long term smokers are killed by tobacco. <input type="checkbox"/> this new law was voted to protect tobacco marketing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Conservative members of Parliament opposed the ban on the display of cigarettes. Davies argues that... <input type="checkbox"/> in time of recession shop-keepers will lose business. <input type="checkbox"/> people should be able to buy tobacco as they buy cakes. <input type="checkbox"/> shops will continue to display cigarettes. <input type="checkbox"/> Government should protect the tobacco industry.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Newsagents are angry and have said they will... <input type="checkbox"/> refuse to participate in the next general election. <input type="checkbox"/> campaign against Labour vote at the general election. <input type="checkbox"/> boycott the Conservative Party. <input type="checkbox"/> put shop-keepers out of their business.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Health Minister Gillian Merron is convinced that the new law will... <input type="checkbox"/> help prevent children from becoming potential smokers. <input type="checkbox"/> prevent children from contracting new diseases. <input type="checkbox"/> encourage more people to keep on smoking. <input type="checkbox"/> protect young people from infectious diseases.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Correctes Incorrectes No contestades		
Recompte de les respostes		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

