

**JEREMY QUIN MP**  
Member of Parliament for Horsham



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

7th November 2016

*Dear Constituent,*

**RE: TOBACCO TAXATION**

Thank you for contacting me about increasing taxation on tobacco.

It is important to provide the necessary help and support for people trying to quit smoking. That is why the Government has stopped cigarette and tobacco adverts in all shops to prevent encouragement to smoke. You may be interested to know that smoking is at its lowest recorded level in the UK and its prevalence among children aged 15 years old has fallen from 12 per cent in 2010 to 8 per cent in 2013.

Smoking remains one of the most significant public health challenges. It is a major cause of cancer, heart and respiratory disease and almost 80,000 people in England alone die every year from ill health caused by smoking. It places an enormous strain on the NHS and its resources. I am pleased that Public Health England has been working with local areas, practitioners and experts in the field to better understand the reasons for the reduction in the number of people accessing services and consider how best to continue to help people stop smoking.

There is clear evidence that increasing the cost of tobacco encourages smokers to quit and discourages young people from taking it up. The Government has already made significant interventions on tobacco, both to protect revenue and to promote public health. This includes the extension of the tobacco duty escalator which will increase the tax on cigarettes by 2 percent above the Retail Prices Index (RPI).

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.