



An Oifig Náisiúnta um Rialú Tobac
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Teach na Darrach
Pairc na Mílaoise
An Nás
Co. Cill Dara

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Deputy Emer Currie
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
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Dear Deputy Currie

The Minister has referred PQ ref PQ2743/26 to the Health Service Executive for a direct reply. Please see response to your PQ below.

Question:

“To ask the Minister for Health if practical guidance on the operation of the retail licensing system for the sale of tobacco and vaping products will issue to retailers ahead of the February 2026 introduction date.”

Response:

The Health Service Executive (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. Section 11 of the Act requires retailers of tobacco products and/or nicotine inhaling products to apply to the HSE for a licence to sell such products.

In accordance with section 11 (10) of the Act a person who is selling tobacco products immediately before 2 February 2026 and who was registered under section 37 of the Act of 2002 has 6 months to apply for a licence. Similarly, under 11 (11) of the Act a retailer of nicotine inhaling products already in business immediately before 2 February 2026 has 6 months to apply for a licence.

To provide guidance to retailers the NEHS has undertaken the following measures:

A letter giving information on licensing and details on how to apply for a licence will be circulated along with a frequently asked questions document to the following:

- all retailers, distributors and importers on the NEHS database
- the head office of retail chains
- bodies representing retailers

In addition, Environmental Health Officers will also be disseminating this information and providing support to retailers during inspections.

An advertisement with information on licensing and how to apply will also be published in relevant trade publications.

The NEHS has developed a bespoke online portal through which retailers will submit their application for a licence. Applications are via the online portal only. The link to this portal is <https://ehonline.hse.ie> and will be live from 2 February 2026.

The HSE web pages are under revision to provide access to the link to submit an application and information on how to apply for a licence. This information and link will be available from 2 February 2026 at hse.ie/tobacco-nicotine-licence

I trust the information provided in this response answers your question posed to the Minister.

Yours sincerely

**Margaret Ruddy
Principal Environmental Health Officer
Tobacco Control Office
National Environmental Health Service
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