

BRINGING E-CIGARETTES UNDER REGULATORY CONTROL

The Principal Legal Draftsperson, who heads the Drafting Section of the Office of the Attorney General, in collaboration with the Public Health Authority, has put the final touches to the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Bill, 2026. The Bill seeks to introduce a legal framework for the regulation of e-cigarettes, including their use, sale, packaging and advertising.

As part of the legislative process, the team working on the Bill met with Members of the National Assembly on Thursday, 24 September 2026, for an awareness session to present and discuss the objects and reasons for the proposed legislation.

During the session, Members expressed their views, raised concerns and made valuable contributions aimed at strengthening the proposed framework and supporting its effective implementation. Particular attention was given to the appeal of e-cigarettes to children and young people, including through their design, presentation and growing popularity.

The health effects of e-cigarettes continue to be the subject of scientific and public-health research. Although available research indicates that e-cigarettes may differ from conventional cigarettes in the nature and level of exposure to harmful substances, their use nevertheless presents health risks, while evidence concerning their longer-term effects continues to develop.

The proposed amendments therefore seek to establish an appropriate regulatory framework that protects public health, with particular attention to children and young people.

