Dear Science and Technology Committee,

I am an academic at the University of Leicester, School of Business and the Principal Investigator on a project entitled “The regulation of vaping in and around organizational lives” funded by the Tobacco Advisory Group as part of Cancer Research UK. My co-investigator is Professor Jason Hughes in Media Communication and Sociology, also the University of Leicester. I write regarding the public enquiry launched on the 25th of October into E-cigarettes. This sounds a very interesting and promising project and I spoke to that effect on BBC Radio 4 at the time when this was launched.

We have only formally started our project in July 2017 (it will run until May 2019) but the key questions we are asking include:

- How do vaping practices vary across organisations, in relation to where, how and when they are used?
- To what extent and how is vaping currently regulated through organisational policies, and how do these vary?
- How do such policies and normative discursive environments influence understandings, uses and experiences of e-cigarettes?
- How do such policies and normative environments frame (and how are they framed by) non-vapers regarding their vaping at work?

To do this, we are using several stages of data collection:

- A UK-wide online policy analysis of current different organisations’ vaping/e-cigarette policies
- A UK-wide survey of the attitudes towards vaping in organisations by vapers and non-vapers
- Interviews with a range of vapers/e-cigarette users to understand how vaping operates and the implications of its regulation
- Interviews with Human Resource and policy makers to understand how vaping operates and the implications of its regulation
- Observations in 6 organisations to explore how vaping is used in organisations

So, whilst we are only just beginning the collection of our data we would welcome any thoughts, comments or future collaboration. Or indeed please share any areas that you have identified and think would be further interesting and deserve more attention. We will be happy to share our findings as and when they become available.

We haven’t included it here to avoid overburdening but if you would like to see our full proposal or speak to us then please do get in touch via email: cvls1@le.ac.uk

Kind regards

Dr. Charlotte Smith