Thank you for your letter of 7 April 2019 regarding vaping in the workplace.

Following the recommendation from your Committee, NHS England has been working closely with Public Health England (PHE) and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence to develop guidance and recommendations for trusts on the use of e-cigarettes in the NHS. It is anticipated that this will be made available shortly.

No national data is currently held on the proportion of trusts which combine vaping and smoking shelters, however, recent surveys from Action on Smoking and Health and PHE suggest that 69% of acute trusts have a policy prohibiting all smoking on their premises. We are currently awaiting data on mental health trusts. National policy is that no trusts will permit smoking anywhere on the premises from December 2019 so the problem of shared vaping and smoking shelters will not arise.

PHE plan a post implementation survey to assess compliance with the standard for a smoke free NHS and will consider including a question on policies relating to e-cigarettes.

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Yours ever,

MATT HANCOCK