



EL1: E-cigarettes and the law

True/False Q&A

1. The majority of under 18s in the UK do not regularly vape.
<i>True – 2023 data by YouGov shows that 20.5% of 11-17 year olds had tried vaping (up from 15.8% in 2022 and 13.9% in 2020). However, the majority had only vaped once or twice, while just 7.6% in this group were regularly vaping.</i>
2. It's illegal to sell e-cigarettes to under 18s.
<i>True</i>
3. Under 18s in the UK often buy e-cigarettes from shops.
<i>True – The same 2023 UK wide YouGov survey showed that 48% of 11-17 year old current e-cigarette users purchase vapes from shops.</i>
4. If you're trying to buy e-cigarettes and you look under 25, you should be asked for ID.
<i>True</i>
5. It's a criminal offence to buy a e-cigarettes on behalf of someone who is under 18.
<i>True</i>
6. It's illegal to vape indoors.
<i>False - It's not illegal but many places don't allow it. It is up to the venue to decide - some places allow it but others don't. Always check with the business or property before vaping indoors.</i>
7. There are no regulations on who can sell e-cigarettes.
<i>False - Any business wishing to sell nicotine containing vaping products must apply to the Tobacco Register. Anyone illegally supplying or selling e-cigarettes to under 18s (e.g. in school) can be prosecuted.</i>
8. E-cigarette can be advertised on Social Media.
<i>False - (more info from CAP & ASA here https://www.asa.org.uk/news/young-people-and-vaping-ensure-your-ads-don-t-go-up-in-smoke.html).</i>
9. The main reason under 18s in the UK report for using an e-cigarette is to quit smoking.
<i>False – The 2023 You Gov Survey showed that among 11-17 year olds who had never smoked and for those who were current or former smokers, the most common reason for vaping was “just to give it a try” and the second most common was “other people do it so I join in”.</i>