

Reaccreditation report of NGO observers to COP11

Survey response 1

Date submitted
2025-02-28 22:47:11

A. Contact details

A1. Name of organization
Cancer Research UK
A6. Website of organization
https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/

B. General information

B1. Please indicate if your organization would like to retain its status as observer to the Conference of the Parties
Yes
B2. Does your organization's mission statement specifically refer to tobacco control?
Yes
B3. If yes, please specify:
CRUK actively addresses tobacco use as one of the largest preventable cancer risk factors. We have also developed an ambitious, achievable, and publicly supported programme 'CRUK's Plan for Longer, Better Lives' for the UK Government to put in place over the next parliamentary term. One mission focuses on cancer prevention, including measures to 'stop the start' and 'start the stop' of smoking.
B4. Does your organization have regional branch(es) to enhance activities in different regions or groups of countries?
Yes
B5. If yes, please provide details
<p>CRUK plays a leading role in advancing tobacco control policy across the UK. We have dedicated strategies and teams working to reduce the burden of cancers caused by tobacco, investing in research and public campaigns to create change.</p> <p>Our regional teams across the 4 nations have led strong campaigns urging the UK Government to pass and implement the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. In Northern Ireland (NI) we have been very focused on the Tobacco & Vapes Bill Legislative Consent Motion (LCM) that passed in February 2025, ensuring that if/when the Bill is enacted in Westminster it will apply in NI. Our NI team worked closely with the Northern Ireland Cancer Charities Coalition, and also met with the Chief Medical Officer and Chair of the Health Committee to discuss this. Similarly, we are actively engaging on the LCM on the Tobacco & Vapes Bill being debated and voted on in the Scottish Parliament.</p> <p>CRUK is also dedicated to supporting the global tobacco control community. Our International Cancer Prevention (ICP) Programme aims to accelerate implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in low-and-middle income countries (LMICs). We work with various civil societies and research institutes around the world to grow a policy evidence base which can be used for regional, national or local change. Our ICP programme provides funding for, and is a member of the Global Alliance for Tobacco Control (GATC) and Smoke Free Partnership Europe, supporting their missions for the full implementation of FCTC articles.</p> <p>CRUK is a member of Association of European Cancer Leagues and European Cancer Organisation Community 365, both of which support tobacco control activity in a European context.</p> <p>CRUK's Head of Global Policy and Programmes is a board member of the Global Alliance for Tobacco Control and Smoke Free Partnership Europe.</p>

B6. Does your organization regularly convene meetings or conferences for its membership?
Yes
B7. If yes, is tobacco control covered in these meetings?
Yes
B8. If yes, please provide details
<p>From March 2023 to present we have convened/ hosted the following meetings, the topic of tobacco control has been covered in these meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Prevention Advisory Group (IPAG) strategy meetings. Annual meetings for external advisory group to share progress from our international programme and tobacco control work. - World Cancer Congress. CRUK held an informal meeting for ICP grantees in October 2024 <p>Other meetings we have invested in, co-hosted with partners, or convened a side-event, to discuss tobacco control include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tobacco control working dinner during London Global Cancer Week 2023 - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Webinar hosted during London Global Cancer Week, 14th November 2023 - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Webinar hosted during London Global Cancer Week, 13th of November 2024 - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Co-hosted two sessions at the World Cancer Congress on tobacco taxation and NCDs - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation delivered during the Africa Conference on Tobacco Control and Development 13th November 2024 - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCD Alliance Forum February 2025 – presenting work that we’ve funded and supported in a session on excise taxes for NCS control (specifically advocacy for tobacco tax reform- more on our taxation work is addressed under D3. article 6). - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular stakeholder meetings with the UK E-Cigarette Research Forum (UKECRF). UKECRF is an initiative led by Cancer Research UK in collaboration with leading experts in the field of e-cigarettes and tobacco control. - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRUK Parliament Day November 2024, CRUK Ambassadors campaigned to MPs for their support on the Tobacco and Vapes Bill.

C. Participation in WHO FCTC meetings and contributions to other tobacco control related events

C1. Please indicate the meetings organized by the Convention Secretariat at which your organization was represented (sessions of the Conference of the Parties, meetings of intersessional groups, NGO meetings, etc.)
Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (February 2024)

C2. Please list any other meetings or conferences with a focus on tobacco control attended by your organization

- Meetings we regularly attend:
 - o Engagement with sector:
 - Fortnightly 'Smokefree Action Coalition' meeting - Group of over 300 organisations across the UK committed to ending smoking.
 - Welsh Tobacco Control Alliance - Brings together coalition of third-sector organisations to reduce smoking rates, address health inequalities, and protect future generations from tobacco harm.
 - CRUK is also a member, and attends the tobacco civil society coalition in Scotland called SCOT.
 - CRUK sits on the Tobacco Strategy Implementation Steering Group, and expect will be involved in shaping the upcoming renewed tobacco strategy.
 - CRUK sits on the ASH (NI) Committee.
 - IARC-led meetings on Cancer Prevention in Europe
 - CRUK is a member of, and co-chairs the GATC Expert Group on NCD Financing and SDGs.
 - o Engagement with Civil Servants:
 - Weekly DHSC/CRUK/ASH meetings to discuss tobacco control policies.
 - We attended the govt response to the Javed Khan review where we asked them questions to keep pressure on the bits that were missing. <https://news.cancerresearchuk.org/2023/04/11/the-governments-response-to-javed-khans-tobacco-review/>
 - CRUK has attended multiple stakeholder roundtable with public health ministers/ CMO on the Tobacco and Vapes Bill
 - Monthly meetings with Scottish government
 - Also of note: we sit on the Scottish Government Tobacco Advisory Group and the Scottish Government Tobacco Oversight Group which works with government on their Tobacco and Vaping Framework.
 - CRUK regularly liaises with the Welsh Government's Risk Behaviours Team (civil servants overseeing tobacco, and the Smokefree Wales Strategy). Our publications, research and broader work in the tobacco control sphere is regularly shared with the Risk Behaviours Team (notably, around CRUK's support towards the Tobacco & Vapes Bill in Wales).
 - o Regular engagement with Parliamentarians across the UK
 - Wales: CRUK's Public Affairs Team has attended all political party conferences in Wales (in the past 12 months) to show support towards the upcoming Tobacco & Vapes Bill.
 - Wales: Last year, CRUK's Public Affairs Team joined the Senedd's Cross Party Group on Smoking and Health, with the Cross Party Group on Cancer, to explain the rationale behind the Tobacco & Vapes Bill to Members of the Senedd (Parliamentarians) and wider third sector. CRUK stats team relayed within this forum CRUK's smokefree projections for Wales (ie. if current trends continue, the Welsh Government will not reach its smokefree target by 2030, unless the pace of change increases).
 - Presentation to Westminster MPs about Tobacco and Vapes Bill
 - Monthly London Tobacco Alliance - Created to enable partners to accelerate efforts to eliminate smoking in London.
- Conferences attended by organisation
 - o European Conference on Tobacco or Health, Madrid (April 2023)
 - o Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco-Europe conference (2023)
 - o SPECTRUM's Nicotine & Tobacco Workshop (Jan 2024)
 - o Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco conference (2024)
 - o Wales Tobacco and Health Network (July 2024)
 - o ASH mental health and smoking roundtable (November 2024)
 - o ASH/OHID one day workshop: Securing a smokefree-UK for all (2024)
 - o Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) (February 2024)
 - o World Cancer Congress (September 2024)
 - o NCD Alliance Forum (February 2025)

D. Your organization's activities to support implementation of the WHO FCTC

D1. Article 5 (General obligations)?

Yes

D2. If yes, please provide details
<p>• <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRUK provides grants to tobacco control advocacy organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action on Smoking and Health o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action on Smoking and Health Wales o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action on Smoking and Health Scotland o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SmokeFree Partnership o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global Alliance for Tobacco Control <p>• <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRUK-commissioned projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth Policy Survey- social media: Investigating young people's exposure, awareness, and views of tobacco, e-cigarettes, high fat, salt, and sugar foods, and alcohol marketing on social media apps. (Commissioned to Humankind and YouGov, estimated month of publication April/May 2025) o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility of e-cigarettes project - Exploring the accessibility of vapes to young people and adults across the UK (University of Stirling). Estimated month of publication April 2025. <p>• <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRUK's Smokefree UK Campaign and support for Tobacco and Vapes Bill. CRUK submitted written evidence, and delivered oral evidence at the Tobacco and Vapes Bill Westminster Committee. Written evidence was also submitted to the Senedd's Health and Social Care Committee's call for evidence for the Tobacco & Vapes Bill in Wales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Our multi-year Smokefree UK campaign has involved; providing written evidence to MPs, encouraging our Campaigns Ambassadors and E-Campaigners to influence MPs to vote in favour for the Bill, and developed media activity to inform the public. <p>• <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRUK regularly responds to UK Government (as well as Devolved Nations and UK organisations) consultations to provide evidence-based recommendations, below are a few of the consultation we have responded to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> January 2023: Financial Conduct Authority's consultation on Sustainability Disclosure Requirements (SDR) and investment labels; we said that tobacco industries should not be able to adopt SDR labels for their products, because it would also go against the UK's commitments to the WHO FCTC. o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> May 2023: UK Government consultation on Tobacco Products (Traceability and Security Features) (Amendment) Regulations. CRUK welcomed the drafted Tobacco Products (Traceability and Security Features) (Amendment) regulations which introduce new sanctions to tackle the sale of illicit tobacco, and HMRC's continued efforts to combat the illicit market with Trading Standards. o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> October 2023: UK Government consultation on mandating quit information messages inside tobacco packs; we supported the introduction of pack inserts o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> December 2023: UK Government consultation on 'Creating a Smokefree Generation and Tackling Youth Vaping'; we strongly supported policy to raise the age of sale by one year every year, as well as measures to reduce youth vaping. o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> January 2025: UK Government consultation on Standardised Packaging for all tobacco products; we called for expansion of standardised packaging regulations to all tobacco products and accessories.
D3. Article 6 (Price and tax measures to reduce demand for tobacco)?
Yes
D4. If yes, please provide details
<p>• <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRUK calls on the UK Government (through Vaping Products Duty consultation and Budget submissions) to maintain the price differential for tobacco (to increase tobacco tax when appropriate) to incentivise people to quit tobacco and move to a less harmful alternative.</p> <p>CRUK funds programmes on the economics of tobacco control through their global International Cancer Prevention (ICP) programme;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). CRUK's joint partnership with UICC, supporting the establishment of tobacco taxation coalitions in Kenya and Uganda. • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The WHO Knowledge Hub on Tobacco Taxation. CRUK are funding the University of Cape Town Knowledge Hub (KH). The programme supports those who belong to the FCTC 2030 Project or are Low- and Middle-Income Countries, to implement better tobacco tax systems and to create policy change in tobacco taxation. • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI). CRUK have been a long-term funder of NDRI, the current two-year programme focuses on research and advocacy to achieve demonstrable policy influence on tobacco control. NDRI will also lobby relevant Government agencies in Nepal to prioritise the tobacco issue increased their knowledge and awareness of existing tobacco control policy/regulation. NDRI will also look to establish a coalition alliance, working on tobacco-related issues. • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS). The current two-year programme looks to promote the adoption of a structured and transparent method for determining cigarette taxes in Sri Lanka, and challenge the industry claims in illicit trade and taxation. A portion of the programme will also support research on taxation around beedis. • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kivu International. CRUK partnership with Kivu International, delivering think tank capacity building programmes in South East Asia. • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Institute for Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy (IECS). We've supported the IECS over the last three years with their project that looks at the economic burden of smoking, which decision makers and civil society organisations can use for more evidence-based approaches to policy making.

D5. Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke)?
Yes
D6. If yes, please provide details
CRUK is actively supportive of the Government's Tobacco and Vapes Bill, which includes powers to expand smokefree places, with consultation.
D7. Article 9 (Regulation of the contents of tobacco product) and/or Article 10 (Regulation of tobacco product disclosures)?
No
D9. Article 11 (Packaging and labelling of tobacco products)?
Yes
D10. If yes, please provide details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standardised packaging: CRUK responded to the UK Government's consultation on plain packaging, and called for expansion of SPOT and TRPR to all tobacco products o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In our planning for the Longer, Better Lives (Manifesto), CRUK called on the UK Government to extend the requirements of standardised packaging and health warnings to all products containing tobacco and accessories like rolling papers and filters. We also called on the UK Government to close loopholes used by the tobacco industry that enable tobacco companies to differentiate their products from others on the market and ban the use of colours or other descriptors in product variant names. • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pack inserts: CRUK responded to the UK Government's consultation on pack inserts, and called on the UK Government to introduce pack inserts for all tobacco products to encourage people to quit smoking. In our Manifesto, we supported the introduction of a range of mandatory pack inserts for all tobacco products. • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CRUK are also delivering an internal project on non-cigarette tobacco products and the role of trading standards officers investigates whether cigars, cigarillos, shisha, smokeless tobacco and heated tobacco are regulated as strictly as cigarettes in the UK market. It also explores the role of trading standards officers in enforcement and how regulations for non-cigarette tobacco products will change following the potential introduction of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill.
D11. Article 12 (Education, communication, training and public awareness)?
Yes
D12. If yes, please provide details
<p>CRUK is calling on the UK Government to invest funding for mass media campaigns to raise awareness around the harms of smoking and benefits of quitting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smokefree UK Campaign (ongoing since July 2022) o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spending Review (March 2025) o <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spring Budget (2024) <p>Over the last year we have also put out several media communications on tobacco control, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 CRUK-led press releases • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14 third-party press releases with DHSC, ASH, UCL, e.g Smoking ban introduced to protect children and most vulnerable - GOV.UK • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 press exclusives including in The Times, Guardian, and Financial Times • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 opinion pieces e.g 'Abandoning the Tobacco and Vapes Bill would betray a generation' in Politicos.co.uk, and 1 letter to The Editor • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10 reactive press requests on the topic of tobacco
D13. Article 13 (Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship)?
Yes
D14. If yes, please provide details
<p>Tobacco advertising is already banned in the UK, however, at CRUK, we are supporting the Tobacco and Vapes Bill which reiterates this ban.</p> <p>Supported our partners (Action on Smoking and Health) and our stakeholders in the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to challenge adverts from heated tobacco companies (IQOS) in supermarkets - 2025</p>
D15. Article 14 (Demand reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation)
Yes

D16. If yes, please provide details
<p>CRUK calls on UK Government to adequately and sustainably fund stop smoking services, mass media campaigns, and financial incentives for pregnant people who smoke, across the UK. As part of our calls, we have submitted responses to UK Government Spending Reviews and Budget Submissions. Similarly, we have been supporting and recommending that the UK Government introduce pack inserts to help people quit smoking.</p> <p>Funded ASH Local Tobacco Report: looks at the state of funding for, and provision of, tobacco control measures and smoking cessation services in England.</p> <p>Further CRUK-commissioned projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-cigarette tobacco project – What interventions could support non-cigarette tobacco cessation in England? Commissioned to Sarah Jackson (UCL) (Live project, due to be completed February 2026) • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ASH Annual Local Tobacco Control Report - Looks at the state of funding for, and provision of, tobacco control measures and smoking cessation services in England. (2024) • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PROCESS Study - how can Stop Smoking Services be improved for low socioeconomic status groups? (Authors: University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University, Cardiff University, University of Edinburgh, University of Leeds, and CRUK) (September 2024) • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disposables e-cigarettes - use and appeal for smoking cessation in adults. (Authors: ScotCen and CRUK) (September 2024) • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thirlway et al 2023 E-cigarette appeal in context: a qualitative study in deprived areas of the role of packaging in e-cigarette purchasing and use (September 2023) • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moodie et al 2023 Improving our understanding of e-cigarette and refill packaging in the UK (September 2023)
D17. Article 15 (Illicit trade in tobacco products)?
Yes
D18. If yes, please provide details
<p>CRUK have called on the UK Government to adequately fund enforcement agencies that help to crack down on illicit trade. Advocacy and influencing work were carried out through CRUK's Manifesto, and engagement with the Spending Review and Budget Submission.</p> <p>The UK Government convened a consultation on Tobacco Products (Traceability and Security Features) (Amendment) Regulations in May 2023. CRUK welcomed the drafted Tobacco Products (Traceability and Security Features) (Amendment) regulations which introduce new sanctions to tackle the sale of illicit tobacco, and HMRC's continued efforts to combat the illicit market with Trading Standards.</p>
D19. Article 16 (Sales to and by minors)?
Yes
D20. If yes, please provide details
<p>Age of sale: CRUK's Smokefree UK Campaign called on Government to 'stop the start' of smoking by raising the age of sale. We are now publicly supporting the progress of Tobacco and Vapes Bill (including smokefree generation age of sale legislation). As part of this, in the consultation held in December 2023, CRUK noted that display signs should accurately reflect this change of sale age.</p>
D21. Article 17 (Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities) and/or Article 18 (Protection of the environment and the health of persons)?
No
D23. Article 19 (Liability)?
No
D25. Article 20 (Research, surveillance and exchange of information)?
No
D27. Article 22 (Cooperation in the scientific, technical and legal fields and provision of related expertise)?
No

E. Other relevant activities to support the work of the WHO FCTC

E1. Please provide any other relevant information

E2. Please attach any other relevant file(s)

filecount - E2. Please attach any other relevant file(s)
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F. Declarations

F1. Please confirm that your organization does not receive, has not received and will not receive in the future, either directly or indirectly, any financial or other contributions or assistance from the tobacco industry or its affiliates. Please also confirm that neither your members nor your partners are affiliated directly or indirectly with the tobacco industry or its affiliates or those furthering the interests of the tobacco industry.
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Yes, I confirm

F2. By electronic signature I confirm that the above information is accurate and completed to the best of our abilities.
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Owen Jackson, Director of Policy

F3. Please confirm that the activities of your organization are in conformity with the 17th and 18th preambular paragraphs and Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.

Yes, I confirm
