



Department of Health

Your Ref: Council - Investment

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From Jane Ellison MP
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17 JUL 2014

Dear Dr Wilkins

Thank you for your letter of 16 June to Jeremy Hunt about local authority investment in tobacco companies.

We agree that the use of tobacco has a significant impact on public health and the Government continues to prioritise tobacco control.

As you may know, the UK is a signatory to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and we take these obligations very seriously. The *Tobacco Control Plan for England* reiterates the importance of protecting public health from the vested interests of the tobacco industry.

We have endorsed the Local Government Declaration on tobacco control and the Government encourages local councils to uphold tobacco control policies and activities.

Local councils are best placed to decide how to implement tobacco control initiatives to protect the health of the local population in their areas. It would not be appropriate for the Government to tell local authorities how to invest their funds and each council would need to consider and make decisions appropriate to its circumstances.

I hope this reply is helpful.

*Kind regards
Jane Ellison*

JANE ELLISON