

## Guidance on E-Cigarettes

E-cigarettes, which emit water vapour rather than smoke, are not currently prohibited by the legislation on smoking. The question has arisen as to whether we should allow the use of e-cigarettes within The Lights. (Please note that this does not refer to use of e-cigarettes on stage as part of a performance)

In order to prevent confusion between staff and customers and amongst audience members, The Lights policy is that the smoking of e-cigarettes anywhere in the building is not permitted

It is important that customers are aware why we are taking this approach:

- Similarly to mobile phones, the light and vapour emitting from the e-cigarette could distract performers and other audience members during a performance
- Audience and customer reaction to the use of e-cigarettes could also be distracting because patrons may be alarmed or annoyed, thinking that the e-cigarette is a real cigarette
- Given that for many years it has not been possible to smoke real cigarettes in theatres and audience members who are smokers have therefore had to wait until the interval or after the performance to have a cigarette what would be the justification for allowing e-cigarettes. It is also now 'the norm' not to be able to smoke inside workplaces and public buildings
- Staff may have difficulty in identifying whether a cigarette is real or electronic and this may cause issues in investigating this along with the practicalities of doing so, especially at busy times
- One of the objectives of the smoking ban was to provide an environment where the social pressures to smoke were reduced. Permitting the use of e-cigarettes may undermine this objective

In addition, there is still some debate as to whether e-cigarettes are safe as they are not currently regulated like products containing tobacco.

The Lights has used advice and guidance from the Theatrical Management Association to form the basis of this guidance document.