

# AVA NEWSLETTER

November 2024

## The Countdown to Our 2024 AVA Christmas Luncheon Begins!



It's hard to believe, but our highly anticipated AVA Christmas Luncheon is just two weeks away—and tickets are officially **SOLD OUT!** 🎉

If you've already secured your spot, get ready for an unforgettable celebration! Keep an eye on your inbox for event details coming your way soon.

Didn't snag a ticket? Don't worry—it might not be too late! 📧 Email [Kennedy](#) now to join the waiting list and grab your chance to be part of this exclusive, sell-out event.

Don't wait, as spaces may open up quickly!

Let's make this a Christmas to remember!

## 2025 ASIA SMART VENDING & RETAIL EXPO

This exhibition take place in Guangzhou China 26-28 February, 2025.

The organising committee are offering AVA members free registration and entry. Details [HERE](#)

PLUS- 2 nights free accommodation at the Clayton Hotel Guangzhou (Five Star)

Website:



<http://www.claytonhotelguangzhou.cn/en>

Hotel Address: 9 Yelin Road, Siheng Road, Yuancun, Tianhe District, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China



**Scottish Government**  
**Riaghaltas na h-Alba**

### Charging for Single-Use Disposable Beverage Cups consultation

As you, hopefully, will have seen in our previous Newsletters and emails, the Scottish government is pushing forward with a [Single-Use Disposable Beverage Cup Levy](#), with proposals that could have devastating effects on vending businesses. After months of engagement with Scottish environmental and governmental bodies, we successfully raised concerns, and a potential exemption for drinks sold from vending machines was been included in the consultation which closed on 14th November.

However, this exemption isn't guaranteed. Why this matters: If this legislation is passed without an exemption for vending, it would spell disaster for operators in Scotland, leading to significant financial impacts. Even if your business only trades in snacks, confectionery, or soft drinks, this could still impact your customers – and therefore your business.

- The current proposal includes a minimum 25p levy on every single-use disposable cup at point of consumer purchase.
- Question 6 of the consultation asked if drinks sold from vending machines should be exempt. We needed your action on this.
- The AVA represents 24,500 operator employees across the UK, and we wanted as much representation as we could get. We asked that every member company – and employees - submitted a response to the consultation. We have been pleased with

the number of responses we have been copied in to. And many we haven't. Hopefully, this will provide a significant enough percentage of the overall submissions and we will get vending and unattended retail exempt.

The AVA Response can be found in the member's area [HERE](#)

The summary of responses will be published sometime in February – we will update you then.

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## Supporting the Vending Industry: Advocating for Fairness Amidst Economic Challenges

The AVA Board recently sent a detailed letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, advocating for the vending industry's needs during these economically challenging times. The letter addresses pressing concerns brought about by recent policy changes, including adjustments to National Insurance Contributions (NICs) and increases in the National Minimum Wage.

Here's a closer look at the key points we raised:

- **National Insurance Contributions (NICs):**  
The recent rise in NICs places additional financial pressure on businesses already grappling with rising operational costs. In our letter, we stressed the cumulative strain this creates for vending operators, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, urging the government to consider measures to ease this burden.
- **Minimum Wage Increases:**  
While the AVA supports fair wages, the accelerated rise in the National Minimum Wage creates significant challenges for vending businesses with tight margins. We've requested support mechanisms or transitional measures to help businesses adapt without compromising their viability or workforce.
- **Energy Costs and Inflation:**  
The ongoing energy crisis continues to impact vending operations, from running equipment to meeting delivery demands. Our letter highlights the urgent need for relief in energy costs and inflation-driven expenses to ensure vending businesses can remain competitive.
- **Sustainability and Regulation Compliance:**  
We also called for clarity and support around sustainability legislation, particularly regarding packaging and waste disposal requirements, ensuring businesses have the resources to meet these demands without disproportionate costs.

The AVA Board is committed to ensuring that your voices are heard and that policymakers understand the unique challenges faced by our sector.

Read the full letter to the Chancellor and see how we're working to advocate for the vending industry [here](#).

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## A Fresh Take on Tradition: The New Plastic-Free Poppy



Last year marked an exciting milestone for Remembrance Day—the launch of a completely recyclable, plastic-free poppy!



For the first time in its 103-year history, this iconic symbol was redesigned with the planet in mind, incorporating recyclable paper and materials sourced partly from discarded coffee cups.

After three years of development with experts from University College London, the new poppy not only honours those who served but also reduces its environmental impact, boasting a 40% smaller carbon footprint. Alongside the traditional pin-on version, an adhesive option will also be available.

The Royal British Legion hopes this eco-friendly redesign once again, inspired more people than ever to participate in the Poppy Appeal this year. Funds raised will continue supporting vital services for the armed forces community, from mental health care to housing assistance.

Let's wear this enduring symbol of remembrance with pride—and with the planet in mind. 🌍

[Plastic-free Remembrance Day poppies partly made from discarded coffee cups | The Standard](#)

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## Welcome to Our New AVA Members!

The AVA is delighted to welcome several new members to our community in 2024. We are thrilled to have them on board and look forward to working with each of them for many years to come.

For more information on the benefits of being an AVA member, visit our website [here](#).

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“Nu Vending was established in 2016 by industry experts with the aim to bring positive change to workplace food and beverage, with a commitment to high-quality service, tech-driven solutions. We service businesses throughout London and the Home Counties with best-in-class coffee, unattended retail, vending and other refreshment services, focusing on health and wellbeing in the workplace.



Our products and services cater to a wide range of sectors including offices, manufacturing, schools and hospitality, with custom food and beverage solutions tailored to each client's unique needs. From high-quality automatic barista-style coffee machines to traditional vending machines, smart fridges, and fully automated micro markets, Nu Vending delivers.

Our core brand values of Sustainability, Wellness and Expertise are at the heart of everything we do, and these values resonate with our clients. We help them to achieve their goal of creating great workplaces that set them apart from their competitors and enable them to win the war for talent.

Nu Vending's mission is to provide high-quality, convenient, and innovative vending solutions that prioritise client satisfaction. By offering a diverse range of fresh, healthy, and premium snacks and drinks, coupled with state-of-the-art technology, we ensure a seamless and reliable vending experience that adds value to any environment. With our commitment to sustainability and exceptional service, we aim to exceed expectations and keep employees and clients energised, satisfied, and coming back for more.”

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## **Recap: The AVA Technical & Operations Webinar - A Huge Success!**

On Tuesday 29th October 2024, the AVA hosted its Technical & Operations Webinar, bringing together over 50 attendees for an engaging, information-packed day. Designed specifically for AVA Operator members, the webinar addressed critical topics, from managing day-to-day operations to preparing for evolving legislation, making it an unmissable event for Senior Managers, Operations, and Technical teams.

With a stellar line up of expert speakers and lively discussions, attendees gained actionable insights to enhance their operations. From understanding the benefits of vending management software to navigating the intricacies of VAT and tackling pest challenges, the agenda was tailored to provide real-world value.



Here's what our attendees had to say:

- Dan Varney, **SB Software** praised the event, calling it "*brilliant and offering genuine insight.*"
- Feedback from our post-event survey included comments like:
  - "*I found it to be very informative.*"
  - "*I took key points from all sections of the webinar.*"
  - "*Loved it!*"

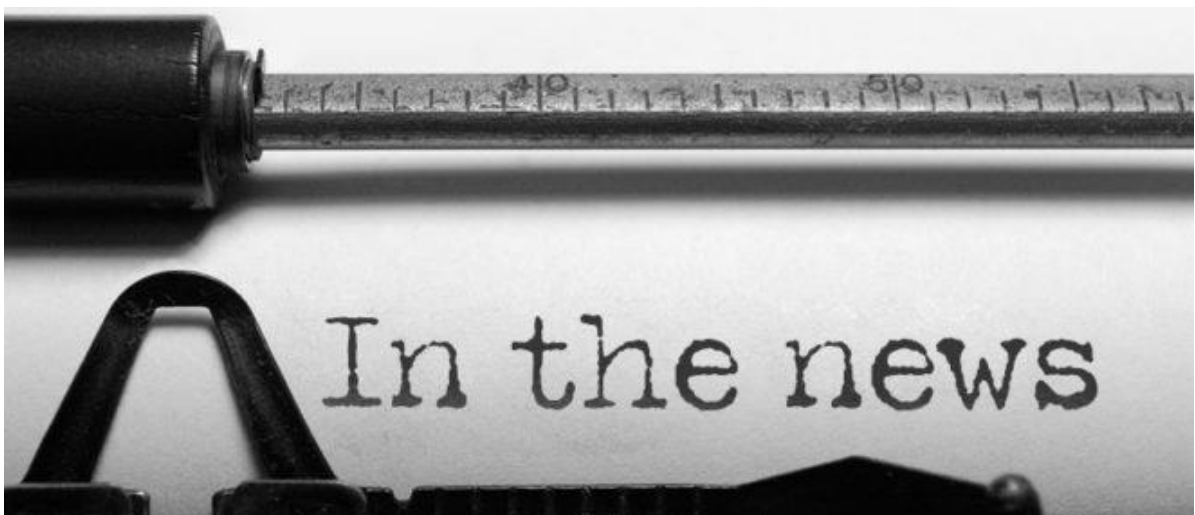
The event's impact is clear:

- **100% of attendees** agreed the webinar helped expand their industry knowledge.
- **100% of attendees** said they would recommend it to their colleagues.

Missed the live event? You can still catch the full webinar on our [YouTube channel](#) and see why it was such a hit!

Thank you to everyone who attended, and to our incredible speakers for making this an event to remember. We look forward to seeing you at the next AVA event!

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ALL THE AVA AND INDUSTRY EVENTS - CHECK FOR UPDATES AND NEW ADDITIONS IN OUR [CALENDAR](#)



We're in the news! Check out what we have been up to:

Discover how innovative vending solutions are reshaping hospital nutrition, offering healthier, more accessible options to staff and patients alike. Read the full article on Hospital Hub [here](#).

The Autumn Budget introduces significant challenges for business owners. Explore the details and potential impact in FM Business Daily's analysis [here](#).

Our Chief Executive, David Llewellyn, shares AVA's perspective on the Autumn Budget and its implications for the vending and FM industries. Find his comments in FMUK [here](#).

Get an overview of how the FM sector is responding to the recent budget announcements, with insights from key players, in PFM's detailed report [here](#).

For a comprehensive breakdown of the Autumn Budget and its implications for the FM sector, read FM Business Daily's newsletter feature [here](#).



**UPCOMING EVENTS  
DECEMBER**

- Thursday 12 Christmas Luncheon**
- Tuesday 24 Christmas Eve**
- Wednesday 25 Christmas Day**

The graphic features a blue background with white text. A red Santa hat with a white pom-pom is positioned on the right side, partially overlapping the 'Christmas Day' event box.

