CLAIMS

1. A heater ~~(101)~~ for heating an aerosol-forming substrate, the heater comprising a plurality of elongate heating elements ~~(107)~~ arranged in an elongate array having a support end with a first dimension, a heating end with a second dimension and a middle portion with a third dimension, the array arranged to heat the substrate to form an aerosol, wherein the third dimension is greater than the first dimension and greater than the second dimension.

2. A heater according to claim 1 wherein the plurality of elongate heating elements is arranged in a substantially tubular array.

3. A heater according to claim 1 or 2 wherein at least one of the first dimension, the second dimension and the third dimension is a diameter of the array.

4. A heater according to any preceding claim wherein the plurality of heating elements are electrically connected or mechanically connected or both mechanically and electrically connected to each other at the heating end.

5. A heater according to any preceding claim, wherein the dimension of the middle portion of the array is larger than an inside dimension of a cavity of the aerosol-forming substrate, such that, when the plurality of heating elements are inserted into the cavity of the aerosol-forming substrate, the heating elements are pressed towards each other so as to exert a force on the substrate.

6. A heater according to any preceding claim, further comprising at least one external heating element for heating the outside of the aerosol-forming substrate.

7. A heater according to any preceding claim, further comprising an electrically conductive pin located substantially in the centre of the elongate array of heating elements.

8. A heater according to claim any preceding claim, wherein the plurality of heating elements is connectable between a first voltage and a second voltage.

9. A heater according to claim 8, wherein all the heating elements are connectable to one of the first and second voltages at the support end and all the heating elements are connectable to the