

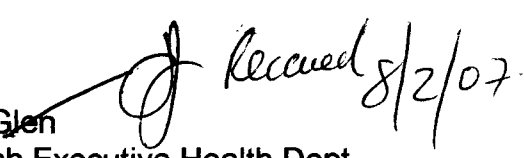
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Ref: JM/EH

If calling or telephoning please ask for: Mr Jim Matthew

5 February 2007

 *Received 8/2/07*
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Dear Sir

**CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SMOKING, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
(SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 (VARIATION OF AGE LIMIT FOR SALE OF TOBACCO
PURCHASE AND CONSEQUENTIAL MODIFICATIONS) ORDER 2007.**

I refer to your letter of 7/12/2006 relative to the above.

Angus Council has no issue with the proposal to raise the age limit from 16 years to 18 years in relation to the sale of tobacco.

However, the means and timing of the introduction of the change are important.

Because all 16 and 17 year old smokers will no longer be able to purchase tobacco when the change is implemented, it may be more practicable to delay change to ensure those most affected are fully aware of the chosen implementation date.

We did consider the alternative of moving the age to 17 years old then to 18 years over a period of time but are aware of the practical difficulties with the display of notices in retail shops etc.

Enforcement of the legislation will be made easier in terms of the age of person used for test purchasing being able to be raised from around 14.5 years to 16.5 years. This will improve the way local authorities conduct enforcement exercises.

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I reiterate that plenty warning needs to be given and wide media circulation of the change needs to be pursued to ensure those smokers of 16 and 17 years have time to adjust their habits; and/or to seek to take advantage of smoking cessation services.

I hope the above is helpful.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Matthew", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Matthew
Head of Environmental & Consumer Protection