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Revised 23/02



Barnardo's

SCOTLAND

GIVING CHILDREN BACK THEIR FUTURE

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John Glen
Scottish Executive Health Department
Tobacco Control Division
3 E (R)
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Date 21st February

Dear Mr Glen,

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

Barnardo's Scotland manages over 60 children's services throughout Scotland, assisting 13,000 children, young people and families. The services provided are diverse covering all age groups from early years through to young adults. Services include working with children's behavioural difficulties, providing educational support, providing family support, assisting families affected by disabilities, HIV, youth offending and homelessness and working with looked after children and those leaving care.

Barnardo's Scotland notes the proposal for a draft order under the above Act to raise the age of purchase of tobacco products from 16 to 18. Barnardo's Scotland supports this proposal and any similar action which seeks to protect and dissuade young people in Scotland from smoking. Whilst we recognise that an increase in the 'age of purchase' will not in itself deter young people from smoking, we recognise the significance that such a message will convey to the Scottish public generally and to young people particularly.

Barnardo's Scotland hopes that a change in the 'age of purchase' of tobacco will be just one measure in a comprehensive package to prevent smoking amongst the young. We believe that research, both here and abroad, has shown that increasing the age at which tobacco can be purchased will only have a positive impact on smoking patterns amongst the young if accompanied by a wider programme aimed at re-educating attitudes to the 'attractiveness' of smoking. To this end we welcome the proposals set out in the report of the *Smoking Prevention Working Group* and hope that these will be given careful consideration by Ministers and adopted as the basis for a 5 year action plan post May 2007.

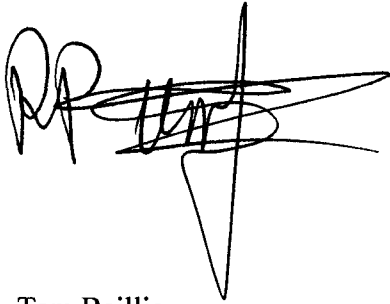
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Should you wish to discuss the views of Barnardo's Scotland on this matter further
Please contact – Maureen Fraser on 0131 314 6665 and at
Maureen.fraser@barnardos.org.uk.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tam Baillie', with a large, sweeping flourish extending downwards and to the right.

Tam Baillie
Assistant Director (Policy and Influencing)
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