



Royal College
of Nursing
Scotland

01-27

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Recd 24/2/07

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

Wednesday 21st February 2007

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

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the UK's largest professional association and union for nurses with around 390,000 members, over 37,500 in Scotland. Most RCN members work in the NHS, with approximately a quarter working in the independent sector. The RCN works locally, nationally and internationally to promote standards of care and the interests of patients and nurses, and of nursing as a profession. The RCN is a major contributor to the development of nursing practice, standards of care and health policy.

The RCN has long been committed to supporting measures aimed at promoting good public health and health improvement, including tightening controls on the sale, advertising and consumption of tobacco and tobacco-related products. Nurses are at the forefront of promoting smoking cessation projects and positive approaches to discouraging smoking and promoting healthy lifestyles¹. Therefore we at RCN Scotland strongly support raising the age of tobacco purchase from sixteen to eighteen as soon as possible. We believe this action would contribute to a reduced uptake of the habit and a reduction in consumption by young people.

¹ RCN (2004) Response to consultation on Smoking in Public Places

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**The RCN represents nurses
and nursing, promotes
excellence in practice and
shapes health policies**

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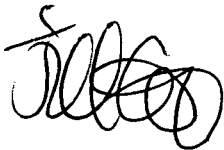
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As members of the SCOT– The Scottish Coalition on Tobacco ² we would also like to see age restrictions for the sale of tobacco enforced through a licensing scheme which provides a clearer understanding of the law and the consequences of breaking it. Government supported investment in work with retailers to reduce tobacco sales to children.

We welcome the commitment expressed in paragraph 6.13 that some of the smoking cessation funding identified for 2007/8 should be targeted at young people. In addition we would like to see increased government investment in health promotion information and advice developed in partnership with young people to help reduce the number of children that start smoking people and to engender community support for campaigns to reduce youth smoking.

We look forward to participating in any future consultation processes.

Yours sincerely



Jill Cox
Interim Director
RCN Scotland

² a coalition of major voluntary organisations, professional associations, unions and civil society groups that campaign for better tobacco control in Scotland