

**Smith L (Lee-Anne)**

01-54

**From:** Glen J (John)  
**Sent:** 01 March 2007 09:58  
**To:** Smith L (Lee-Anne)  
**Subject:** FW:

**JOHN GLEN  
Tobacco Control Team  
Public Health & Substance Misuse Division  
Area 3 E  
St Andrew's House  
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EH1 3DG**

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ben McKendrick [mailto:mckendrickb@bhf.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 28 February 2007 16:29  
**To:** Glen J (John)  
**Subject:**

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Hi John,

As discussed please find a copy of BHF Scotland's response to the two consultations.

We are very happy for all of the content to be made public.

Let me know if you need any further information.

Kind regards

Ben McKendrick  
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British Heart Foundation Scotland and Northern Ireland  
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## SCOTLAND

### 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

#### Response from BHF Scotland

British Heart Foundation (BHF) Scotland is the nation's heart charity, saving lives through pioneering research, patient care and information. Our vision is that, within a generation, we will create a world where people do not die prematurely of heart disease.

Smoking is one of the four major risk factors for coronary heart disease. Up to 18 in every 100 deaths from coronary heart disease are associated with smoking. The risk of a heart attack rises with the amount you smoke. In general, people who smoke cigarettes have about twice as great a risk of a heart attack as people who do not. However, this increased risk is particularly large in smokers aged under 50 - their heart attack death rates are up to 10 times greater than non-smokers of the same age. The more you smoke and the younger you started, the greater your risk.<sup>1</sup>

We therefore welcome the opportunity to respond to this important consultation document, and strongly support the proposals to raise the age at which tobacco can be purchased from 16 to 18.

BHF Scotland is a supporter of ASH Scotland who are the leading voluntary organisation for tobacco control in Scotland. We refer the Scottish Executive to the separate response submitted by ASH Scotland for a more in depth analysis of the timeframe and measures which should accompany the changes proposed in this consultation document.

#### Response from British Heart Foundation Scotland

***Q1: Do you agree that the age of purchase of tobacco products should be raised to 18 as provided for in the draft Order, and with the assumptions made in the partial RIA?***

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bhf.org.uk/hearthealth/index.asp?secondlevel=78&thirdlevel=168&artID=463>

Yes. BHF Scotland supports the proposal to raise the minimum legal age for the purchase of tobacco from 16 to 18 as part of wider package of measures to tackle tobacco use in Scotland, especially amongst the young. In particular, we think it is important that this legal change is accompanied by a wide-reaching publicity campaign.

The area of tobacco control is therefore an extremely important one for BHF Scotland, and this proposal has our support.

**Q2: ... we would welcome views on:-**

- *issues which you think require to be addressed in preparation for the proposed change in the legal age for purchase; and*
- *the period of time required between the announcement of the change and its implementation.*

It is very important that the proposal to raise the minimum age is part of a package of measures designed to tackle young people's use of tobacco. That package should include the following elements:

- Publicity campaign- targeting young people themselves and retailers, explaining why the change in law is happening, emphasising the importance for enforcement and where young people can get access to cessation services
- Resources for and increased availability of cessation services- with a particular focus on young people. The change in the law can only put additional pressures on services that are already stretched.
- Work with retailers on the reasons for the changes to the law, and the importance of appropriate enforcement

## **Timings**

BHF Scotland believes it is important that the change in the law takes place as soon as possible, while at the same time allowing for the relevant preparations and communication to take place.

It is clear that retailers will need some time to prepare for the change, and that the public will need to be made of aware of it. For these reasons, BHF Scotland supports the 6-12 month timescale for the implementation of the change, Option 2 in the Draft Regulatory Impact Assessment.

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