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Dear Mr Glen

RE: Response to Scottish Executive Consultation Document – Towards A Future Without Tobacco (November 2006)

The University of Paisley is grateful to have the opportunity to comment on the above consultation document in particular where there are references and recommendations that may affect the University student population. We agree to our comments being made available to the public.

The University of Paisley are actively addressing the issues arising from the introduction of the new smoking prevention legislation introduced in March 2006 through continuous staff consultation, health promotion and education programmes.

We wish to comment on the following aspects of the document having consulted with student representation from the University of Paisley:

Chapter 5 – The current policy context and smoking prevention initiatives in Scotland.

5.1 The wider environment: prohibition of smoking in enclosed public places.

The general consensus given by the student representative is that a large percentage of our student population are “social smokers”. Through general observation, there appears to have been a noticeable decline in the number of such students continuing to smoke since the introduction of the legislation in March 2006. There has also been a reduction in the requirement to refill the cigarette vending machines, this may also suggest a reduction in the number of student social smokers.

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2

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Chapter 6 – Implications of the research evidence and recent experience in Scotland for future preventive initiatives

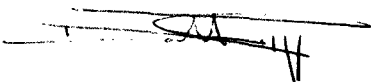
6.12 Smoking cessation services for young people/6.14 Consultation and implementation

There appears to be a need for more **direct contact and consultation** with the likes of student union and student association management and student representation in advising them on current health promotion packages and smoking cessation support designed specifically at reaching "student communities". Student unions and associations have a wealth of experience in promoting many activities and know and understand the best way to successfully engage with their clients.

The University of Paisley is keen to raise awareness of important health issues and currently use their in-house media facilities for the promotion of other health & safety national campaigns.

I hope you find our comments useful.

Yours sincerely



David Rigg
University Secretary

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