

		
		5 August 2004

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Smoking in Public Places Consultation

Your Details

Please complete the details below. This will help ensure we handle your response.

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1. Are you reponding as:
 An individual (go to 2a/b)
 on behalf of a group or organisation (go to 2c)

2a. INDIVIDUALS

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in
 Yes (go to 2b below)
 No, not at all

available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

2b. Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes)

- Yes, make my response, name and address all available.
- Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address.
- Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address.

2c. ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS

Your name and address as respondees **will be** made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

- Yes
- No

3. ALL RESPONDENTS

We will share your response internally with other SE policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to allow them to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future for consultation or research purposes?

- Yes
- No

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Having considered the health risks associated with passive smoking, do you think that further action needs to be taken to reduce people's exposure to second hand smoke?

- yes
- no
- don't know

Please provide any other comments here:
Tobacco is the biggest cause of death and ill-health in Scotland, with 13,000 people dying each year from tobacco related illnesses. The evidence in relation to the dangers of passive smoking is increasing all the time, but it is already clear that exposure to second hand smoke is a cause of lung cancer and heart disease. In addition, exposure to second hand smoke can cause asthma in children, and may increase the severity of asthma in children who are already affected.

Although the level of absolute risk when exposed to second hand smoke has not been fully established there is little doubt that risk exists for all sectors of the population, with some individuals at more risk than others. Current advice is that people at risk of heart disease, or with known coronary heart disease should avoid indoor smoky environments. It is estimated that exposure to environmental tobacco smoke can increase the risk of coronary heart disease by 50-60%, and the risk of lung cancer by 20-30%. Non smokers exposed to environmental tobacco smoke in the workplace in Scotland may have their lung function reduced by up to 10%.

Where people are currently encouraged or asked not to smoke this is frequently ignored, with some smokers having little or no regard for the welfare of others. In many instances non smokers are exposed due to a lack of regard by smokers. This situation is unlikely to improve unless a ban on smoking in public places is implemented.

2. Would you support a law that would make

- yes
- no
- don't know

**enclosed
public places
smoke-free?
(Public places
include
workplaces
and
transport)**

Please provide your reasons or any other comments here:

A ban on smoking in public places is central to addressing public health in Scotland. In relation to comments at 1 above, where voluntary systems of providing smoke free areas are currently in place these are frequently ignored by smokers, with the result that non smokers continue to be exposed to second hand smoke.

Research suggests that air-flow possible with current systems of ventilation in premises are not sufficient to eliminate the health risk associated with second-hand smoke, frequently therefore lulling people into a false sense of security that the premises are smoke free, when in fact many of the most dangerous components of tobacco smoke are still present.

Without legal backing to provision of smoke free public places Scotland is likely to continue with varying degrees of protection being offered to the public dependant on the personal committment of businesses to protect their customers' health. Legal backing would ensure that consistent levels of public protection would be enjoyed by all sectors of the population

3. If a law was introduced, do you think there should be any exemptions to it? (i.e. any enclosed public places where smoking should be allowed)

- yes
- no
- don't know

Please provide any suggestions, reasons or other comments here:

4. If we decide not to introduce a

Please provide any suggestions or other comments here

Businesses should actively discourage smoking

law, what more could be done to encourage individual businesses to take voluntary action to become smoke-free or to provide more smoke-free provision?

on their premises, and should display notices to this effect. This should clarify for the benefit of users of the premises whether the premises have no policy on smoking, are ventilated, have designated smoking areas, separated smoking areas or are completely smoke free, in order to ensure that the public have sufficient information to make an informed choice about their use of particular public premises.

5. What else could we do to reduce people's exposure to second-hand smoke?

Please provide any other suggestions here
Legislation should be the main driver in discouraging smoking in public places. This should be supported by an intensive education programme about the dangers of smoking, and the effects of second hand tobacco smoke. More work needs to be done in relation to young people and the opportunity to keep them as non smokers, as well as continuing support and encouragement being provided to smokers who want to give up. The national programme of smoking cessation work must continue to be funded adequately to ensure that people who want to quit are given as much support as possible to do so. Additionally, education programmes must continue to emphasise the public health dangers associated with smoking, and endeavour to keep people as non smokers wherever possible. The education message should not be restricted to mainstream education, but extended to community and lifelong learning spheres.

6. Please let us know about any other views you have about smoking in public places.

Please provide your views here
Smoking is the biggest cause of premature death and ill health in Scotland, costing the NHS an estimated £200 million per annum, and resulting in 13,000 lives being lost each year. This dreadful public health record can begin to be reversed if smoking in public places is banned, since there is evidence that where such

bans are implemented the public in general benefit, and smokers themselves are encouraged to give up. This is an opportunity to start to make a significant impact on Scotland's public health record; the opportunity should not be wasted.

INFORMATION TO HELP US UNDERSTAND YOUR VIEWS
(if you are responding as an individual)

7. Do you smoke?

- yes
- no

8. Are you?

- Male
- Female

9. What age are you?

- Under 16
- 16-24
- 25-59
- 60 and over

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