

Dundee

City Council

Chief Executive

Smoking in Public Places Consultation
Scottish Executive
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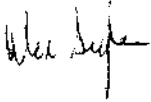
Date: 28 September 2004

Dear Sirs

I enclose Dundee City Council's response to the national consultation on smoking. Within this context, the Council supports a ban on smoking in public places.

I trust you will find the enclosed comments constructive.

Yours faithfully



Alex Stephen
Chief Executive

enc

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SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

RESPONSE FORM

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?**

(Please tick one box only)

Yes No Don't know

Smoking kills 13,000 people every year in Scotland. There is now incontrovertible evidence in place that demonstrates the link between inhalation of Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) and a range of diseases. Indeed ETS increases the risk of coronary heart disease (CHD) by 30%, lung cancer by 30%, and stroke by 28%. It is estimated that over 1,000 people die every year as a result of inhaling ETS and enclosed public places are the main source of exposure. One in three pregnant women are exposed to ETS in the workplace and this can lead to a wide range of health problems to their unborn children including middle ear disease, respiratory infections and development of asthma.

Therefore the banning of smoking in all enclosed public places would be a significant contribution to improving the health of the people of Scotland.

2. **Would you support a law that would make enclosed public places smoke-free? (Public places include workplaces and public transport).** *(Please tick one box only)*

Yes No Don't know

In addition to significantly reducing illness and death resulting from ETS, smoke-free enclosed public areas would also help those smokers trying to quit. Spending time in places where smoking is not permitted helps prevent relapse in smokers who have recently quit. The creation of these smoke-free areas also serves to contribute to a culture of non-smoking which acts as a disincentive to young people starting to smoke. Indeed current evidence indicates that where bans on smoking in enclosed public places exist, there has been a fall in the overall prevalence of smoking.

There is also the issue of health in the workplace. Currently not all employees are protected from ETS e.g. staff working in the hospitality section. Banning smoking in public places would address this inequity and afford these employees the same right and protection of others to work in a smoke-free environment.

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)** *(Please tick one box only)*

Yes No Don't know

Implementation of bans within public sector organisations and care or residential settings (e.g. hospitals, residential/nursing homes, prisons) would need to take account of certain humanitarian issues e.g. terminally ill patients, psychiatric in-patients, patients or residents for whom the care/residential setting has effectively become their home. However, apart from these exemptions, the ban should be total.

4. **If we decide not to introduce a 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?**

Voluntary measures currently in place have proved ineffective in protecting 70% of the adult population who do not smoke. Less than half of Scotland's pubs and restaurants know of the existence of the Scottish National Voluntary Charter and currently two thirds of Scottish pubs permit smoking throughout their premises. However, even the provision of designated no-smoking areas offer very limited protection from ETS. Also ventilation systems, no matter how sophisticated, do not remove the carcinogenic gases from cigarette smoke in the air. Indeed only tornado strength ventilation systems would actually remove all the risks. There is no safe level of exposure to ETS.

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

In due course consideration on introducing smoking bans could be extended to external covered public areas such as sports stadiums. Also, consideration should be given to banning smoking in private motor vehicles where children are present.

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

Evidence from New York and Ireland has demonstrated that banning smoking in pubs and restaurants does not harm business.