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From: Greater Glasgow Health Council [co@gglhc.demon.co.uk]
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To: smokingconsultation
Subject: Consultation Response

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Response to the Smoking in Public Places Consultation

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Responding as an Organisation.

2c. Yes

3. Yes

Questionnaire

1. Yes. Second hand smoking remains still all too common. There is the matter of the rights of non-smokers to be free of second hand smoke. The ban on smoking should apply as widely as possible to public places including, work places, transport, bars, restaurants, cinemas, theatres and all public buildings (with the exception of long stay care of the elderly facilities).

2. Yes. The Health Council does support a law that would make enclosed public places smoke free. The Health Council believes there is an irrefutable public health argument for such a ban. Passive smoking increases the risk of lung cancer in non-smokers and smokers are twenty times more likely to die from smoking related disease than in road accidents. Smoking is one of the biggest causes of death in Scotland with around 13000 thousand Scots dying ever year through smoking related disease. Smoking causes lung cancer, coronary heart disease and bronchitis. It also causes cancer of the mouth, larynx, oesophagus, cervix, bladder and pancreas. The cost in personal terms to individuals, families, as well as communities and in economic terms to the state, justify and indeed demand firm action be taken by the Scottish Executive.

3. Yes. Exemptions should be kept to a minimum. Exceptions should be such public places as the long stay care of the elderly hospitals or care facilities where special smoking rooms could be provided for residents only. The reason for such an exception would be that such accommodation is the resident's home.

4. A decision not to introduce a law banning smoking in public places would be a most inappropriate decision. It would send out completely wrong message to the general public and would undermine any efforts to encourage voluntary action.

It would be quite inappropriate to delegate this matter to licensing authorities. It is a matter about which the Scottish Executive should take a clear stand.

5. Ensure that the law, when introduced, is regulated and applied appropriately. The law should not be allowed to be flaunted in the way in which laws regarding for example dropping litter or using a mobile phone when in charge of a motor vehicle are laws which are ignored by a significant section of the community.

6. The Health Council is a body representing the public within the NHS has sought views on the proposed smoking ban. We believe that the ban would be a popular measure with a vast majority of the population and would have significant health benefits for the people of Scotland.

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Greater Glasgow Health Council

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