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**SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES: A CONSULTATION ON REDUCING  
EXPOSURE TO SECOND-HAND SMOKE**

**Response from Moray Health Improvement Strategy Group**

**September 2004**

**Question 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?

Answer YES

**COMMENTS**

The Moray Health Improvement Strategy Group would approve of a smoking ban in all public places.

**Question 2:** Would you support a law that would make enclosed public places smoke-free? (Public places include workplaces and public transport)

Answer YES

**Comments:** Evidence clearly shows that the voluntary code has not had the effect it was hoped for. It may have worked in large populated areas where a food business could cater for a specific part of the population but in less densely populated areas to have a viable business they have to be seen to cater to all parts of society. To make the ban statutory gives those businesses who would like to become non-smoking a level playing field. The Health Improvement Strategy Group supports the view that the Bill is only part of the process of safeguarding peoples' health from the effects of tobacco smoke, and that there need to be ongoing:

- Awareness raising of the dangers of both passive smoking and smoking
- Supports systems to change the attitudes of the public towards smoking in general
- Encouragement and support for people who want to stop smoking and to ex smokers to prevent them from relapsing, by providing a smoke-free environment.

**Question 3:** If a law was introduced, do you think there should be any exemptions to it?

It is suggested that provision could be made for smokers in large industrial places.

**Question 4:** If we decide 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?

**Comments:** The implementation of the new law and policing is the most important part. It is not realistic to expect premises to be inspected for compliance and another approach is needed. It is acknowledged that not all

premises will be licensed but the vast majority, who have not complied with the voluntary code, will be. Licensing Boards will therefore have a key role to play in setting and regulating conditions. The public will have to be involved in the policing as well, indirectly by boycotting premises that allow smoking directly by reporting breaches to the relevant authorities. It is interesting to note the surveys conducted in other countries show very positive outcomes and there is no reason why Scotland will not follow these excellent examples.

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

Implementation of the new law would require commitment through the development of policies at a local level from all organisations and support as a statutory requirement, from the Scottish Parliament.

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

If you are responding on behalf of a group or organisation:

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

Answer      YES

**Response on behalf of the Moray Health Improvement Strategy Group  
and approved by The Moray Council, Policy & Resources Committee  
on 29 September 2004**

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