

Smoking in Public Places Consultation
Scottish Executive
Health Department
3ES St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3BR

29 September 2004

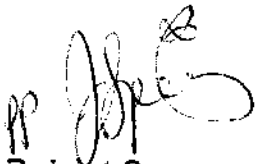
Dear Sir/Madam

Smoking in Public Places Consultation

Please find enclosed a response from the Rail Passengers Committee Scotland and Caledonian MacBrayne Users Committee to the Smoking in Public Places Consultation.

The Committee found the consultation document very interesting and appreciated the opportunity to respond.

Yours sincerely



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Director

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Rail Passengers Committee Scotland and Caledonian MacBrayne Users Committee

Response to the Scottish Executive's Consultation on Reducing Exposure to Second-hand Smoke - Smoking in Public Places

The Rail Passengers Committee Scotland (RPCS) and Caledonian MacBrayne Users Committee (CMUC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Scottish Executive's Consultation on Reducing Exposure to Second-hand Smoke - Smoking in Public Places.

General

1. We are responding as an organisation on behalf of rail and ferry users.
- 2c. Yes
3. Yes

Consultation Responses

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. These comments refer only to railway stations, trains, ferry terminals and Caledonian MacBrayne ferries.

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

Yes. Second-hand smoke is not only unpleasant, but also dangerous to health.

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. If there was enclosed public space of sufficient size available to accommodate in comfort all those who did not wish to be subjected to second-hand smoke, it would be a commercial decision for the operator of that railway station, etc whether to allow smoking in another enclosed space, provided there was no possibility under any circumstances of 'leakage' of second-hand smoke into the non-smoking area.

There should not, however, be any smoking in ferries, where such separation is not normally feasible, and where there is a greater risk from unextinguished smoking materials.

For the avoidance of doubt, any smoking embargo should apply equally to passengers and operators. The separation between operator cabs and the rest of the train are not sufficient to prevent 'leakage'. However, if suitable areas are provided in staff spaces that do not impinge on non-smoking areas, then that should be for agreement between the trades unions and management.

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?

Nothing to suggest.

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

In semi-enclosed areas such as partially covered railway stations (e.g., Edinburgh Waverley) there should be segregated, and well-separated, smoking and non-smoking standing and seating areas. Otherwise, it is difficult for non-smokers – particularly children whose faces are at much the same level as someone holding a cigarette - to avoid second-hand smoke.

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

Smoking areas of enclosed public spaces are frequently messier than non-smoking areas. More might be done to encourage smokers to use ashtrays, etc.

Recognition of the fire hazard linked to smoking must be taken account of with regards to safety and potential loss of life issues e.g. King's Cross Station fire.