

41

Respondee Information Form

Name: Scottish National Party

Address: Scottish National Party HQ
107 McDonald Road
Edinburgh
EH7 4NW

Consultation Title: *Smoking In Public Places*

The Scottish National Party is willing for the content of its response to be made available to the public in the SE library and on SE website.

28 September 2004

Stewart Maxwell
MSP for West of Scotland

g:\msp1320\constituencyoffice\smoking\executiveconsultation\snp-execonsultationresponse-22sep04.doc

Smoking In Public Places Consultation Team
3 E(S) St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Scottish National Party Response To Smoking In Public Places Consultation

Dear Sir

The Scottish National Party believes that it is imperative that the Scottish Parliament takes action to protect the health of the citizens of Scotland from the effects of Environmental Tobacco Smoke. The proven health risks, combined with the involuntary exposure to which many people, including children and the sick, are subjected, make this a pressing public health issue. Smoking is the biggest single preventable cause of premature death in Scotland. Passive smoking damages the health of many people and kills over 100 people in Scotland each year. The government of Scotland has a responsibility to safeguard the health of its people.

It is Scottish National Party policy to ban smoking in enclosed public places, therefore we would certainly support a law that would make enclosed public places in Scotland smoke-free.

Most smokers indicate that they wish to stop smoking and international evidence indicates that a ban on smoking in public places leads to a rapid reduction in smoking rates by 4%. Therefore it is clear that smoking bans help smokers as well as non-smokers.

The Scottish National Party believes that the Voluntary Charter has failed absolutely, and that the time to think of encouraging individual businesses to act through persuasion has passed. The best protection for the people of Scotland is a law prohibiting smoking in public places.

Constituency Office
14 William Street
Paisley PA1 2LZ
Tel: 0141 887 2185
Fax: 0141 887 2183

Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5669
Fax: 0131 348 6479

28 September 2004

Stewart Maxwell
MSP for West of Scotland

Scotland's health is very poor compared to other countries in Europe. Many countries in Europe are implementing smoking bans. If Scotland does not follow suit then we will see our position in the league table of health fall even further.

The Scottish National Party recognises that smokers have the right to smoke, but it does not accept that they have the right to damage the health of non-smokers.

Yours faithfully



Stewart Maxwell MSP

on behalf of the Scottish National Party

Constituency Office
14 William Street
Paisley PA1 2LZ
Tel: 0141 887 2185
Fax: 0141 887 2183

Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5669
Fax: 0131 348 6479