

Please complete the details below. This will help ensure we handle your response.

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1. Are you replying as:

- An individual (go to 2a/b)
 on behalf of a group or organisation (go to 2c)

2a. INDIVIDUALS

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

- Yes (go to 2b below)
 No, not at all

2b. Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes)

- Yes, make my response, name and address all available.
 Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address.
 Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address.

**2c. ON BEHALF OF
GROUPS OR
ORGANISATIONS**

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

- Yes
- No

3. ALL RESPONDENTS

**We will share your
response internally with
other SE policy teams
who may be addressing
the issues you discuss.
They may wish to contact
you again in the future,
but we require your
permission to allow them
to do so. Are you content
for the Scottish Executive
to contact you again in
the future for
consultation or research
purposes?**

- Yes
- No

Tobacco Workers' Alliance Submission to the Scottish Executive "Smoking in Public Places" Consultation

INTRODUCTION:

The Tobacco Workers' Alliance (TWA) is a coalition of Amicus, Transport and General Workers Union (T&G) and GMB trade union members who work in the UK tobacco manufacturing industry and its major suppliers, currently representing 7,500 workers across the UK, supported by the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association.

The TWA campaigns on a variety of issues that it believes could cause short and long-term damage to the employment prospects of those employed in the industry.

The TWA fully recognises that there are health risks associated with tobacco products. Although passive smoking (inhaling cigarette smoke from others) accounts for a small amount of ill health, most of the harm done by smokers is to their own health.¹

The TWA fully supports reasonable and responsible regulation of tobacco products.

As a trade union organization we believe that all views should be taken into consideration so that not only the rights of non-smokers are observed, but also the rights of those who happen to be smokers.

The TWA recognises that the Scottish Executive is pursuing a health-oriented agenda in regard to smoking and agrees with this approach. However tobacco products are legally manufactured, sold and consumed in the UK and while this remains the position adults should not be marginalised or vilified because they smoke.

SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

The TWA would not support a total ban on smoking in enclosed public places. Nevertheless, we do believe that more can be done to improve the welfare of hospitality industry employees, particularly, who work in smoky environments.

1. Regarding public places, which are also workplaces, the Public Places Charter in Scotland has improved conditions and the welfare of both staff and customers through the introduction of ventilation and no-smoking areas. However the TWA believes the Charter can be enhanced to improve conditions for our colleagues in the hospitality industry by:
 - Having adequate ventilation in all licensed premises. This would remove more than 80% of Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS). Recent studies carried out in different pubs

and bars, by the University of Glamorgan have revealed the effectiveness of ventilation at removing components of ETS.

- Not permitting smoking at the bar.
 - Introducing more no-smoking areas, particularly in areas where food is served.
 - Considering the use of positive air pressure behind the bar to carry the ETS away from the working area.
2. The TWA would not object to a stronger reinforcement of these kinds of measures, such as introducing strict targets, but for a balanced approach the Executive does not need to legislate for a ban on smoking in public places. As a trade union organisation we would like to see both smokers and non-smokers accommodated and this sort of solution would provide that.
 3. A legislative ban would marginalise the quarter of the population that continue to use a legal product, manufactured by UK workers.
 4. The TWA believes that an outright smoking ban would lead to job losses in the hospitality industry. Associations representing bars and pubs in both Ireland and New York have reported an impact on the workforce.
 - A report on New York found the state-wide smoking ban has resulted in losses in bars and taverns of 2,000 jobs, representing 10.7% of the workforce.
 - A further 2,650 jobs in the supply and service industries for New York's bars have also been lost since the introduction of the smoking ban.²
 - There has been a downturn in trade of 16% in Irish pubs and bars with a knock-on effect on employment. In Dublin, pub employment is down 14% costing 2000 full and part-time jobs.³
 5. Job losses and job insecurity are a cause of stress and poor health.
 6. The TWA acknowledges that smoking restrictions can have a positive effect on hospitality businesses, particularly restaurants. However, restrictions must be distinguished from bans, particularly in bars and pubs, where universal bans can have a detrimental effect on business, which impacts on employees.
 7. A legislative smoking ban raises practical implications, the TWA is concerned about the way in which such a ban would be enforced. Would employees come under undue pressure from their managers and employers to enforce the Bill? Would this open up workers to abuse from, for example, pub customers who may have had a few drinks and might not be as amenable to being asked to stub out their

cigarettes? These questions would have to be taken fully into consideration should legislation be formulated.

¹ Alcohol – can the NHS afford it?, Royal College of Physicians, February 2001, paragraph 1.11

“In order to put the burden of ill-health attributable to alcohol into perspective it is useful to compare it with smoking. Smoking has been estimated to cause over 100,000 deaths per year in the UK, which is several fold the number caused alcohol. It causes much non-fatal disease, constituting a major burden for the NHS. However the excess deaths from smoking tend to occur at an older age than those due to alcohol, so the number of years of life lost from smoking is closer to the number of years of life lost as a result of alcohol. Smoking rarely causes death or ill health in young people, whereas much of the burden of alcohol is in the young through accidents and violence. Although passive smoking (inhaling cigarette smoke from others) accounts for a small amount of ill health, most of the harm done by smokers is to their own health. In distinction, heavy drinkers cause almost as much harm to others as to themselves. An irresponsible drinker can cause havoc with the health and well-being of others, including spouses, children, neighbours, other road users and work colleagues. While it may seem that tobacco causes more ill health than alcohol, the harm done to health by these two substances is of a similar order of magnitude.”

² New York Nightlife Association, Empire State Restaurant and Tavern Association, New York, 2004

³ Licensed Vintners Association, Dublin, 2004