

BRITISH CASINO ASSOCIATION

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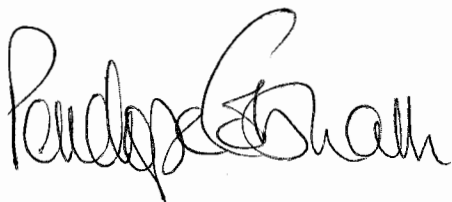
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Response of the British Casino Association to the Scottish Executive Health Department on the Smoking, Health & Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 (Prohibition of smoking in certain premises) Regulations 2005: Draft

April 2005

1. It would be economically wrong to have different smoking legislation in Scotland to England and Wales. In this particular of consumer choice harmonisation is preferable to local democracy.
2. Thus the BCA would like to see the same legislation come into force at the same time in both jurisdictions.
3. Evidence (Govt Statistics) from Eire show that a total hospitality ban led to a 10.7% drop in visitors and a 7.3% drop in turnover. If this was repeated in Scotland it would devastate the Scottish hospitality industry. The Scottish Parliament should avoid the "political point scoring" of their First Minister and listen to the legitimate concerns of their own hospitality industry.
4. England has taken a far more balanced approach which the BCA supports with a partial ban in hospitality in 2008 - Scotland should follow suit.
5. The BCA does not oppose legislation to restrict "smoking in public places," we just believe that it should be proportionate to the risk and phased in to allow the hospitality industry (in particular) time to adjust.
6. The Scottish Hospitality Industry has a lobby going on the above basis and the BCA believes it should join this campaign.



Penelope, Viscountess Cobham
Chairman

Chairman: Penelope, Viscountess Cobham