

FREEDOM2CHOOSE

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Mr J Glen
Scottish Executive
Tobacco Control Division
Areas 3ER
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Mr Glen

I am deeply concerned with regard to the proposed ban on smoking in public places in Scotland, the adverse effect on the licensed trade would seriously impact on our businesses.

We have recently presented to the Prime Minister a petition signed by 14,000 pub goers who do not want a ban on smoking in the licensed outlets. These petitions have been collected in the first few weeks of our campaign.

The licensed trade in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland do not want a ban on smoking in their outlets nor do their customers. This proposed ban is a politician's ban based upon what politicians think we want not what the majority of pub goer's want.

Pub goers want to be able to make a choice to smoke or not to smoke and this is a simple matter to agree upon by using quality ventilation systems that can easily cope with the pub environment. We can have better air quality in a smoking pub than we have outside in the open air by using air cleaners, ventilation and air conditioning systems. At no time have the politicians tried to stipulate the level of air quality in a public place. By deciding upon acceptable air quality levels and implementing a sensible smoking policy such as

- No smoking at the bar
- Agreeing percentage of non-smoking areas within the outlet
- No smoking in food areas
- The use of ventilation and air cleaners to allow smokers and non-smokers to share their leisure time together.

It is a proven fact that air quality in a smoking pub with good ventilation and air cleaners coupled with a sensible smoking policy is no different to that of a non-smoking pub. Dr Andrew Geens of the University of Glamorgan has carried out conclusive tests at the Doublet Bar in Glasgow's West End.

This is a common sense proposal rather than a draconian ban. Smokers are not criminals or second-class citizens they are the same as you and I and deserve to be treated fairly.

We live in a free and tolerant society, we are British and are looking for a British answer, not the Americans or Irish naïve, blinkered, repressive answer to smoking. We are tolerant of people's needs and freedom to choose. We do not want discrimination in our lives.

All the consultation so far carried out have been to get the answer politicians want to force a ban by asking the question to

1. people with access to computers via the internet
2. asking mis-leading questions

I urge you to consider the points I have made. I believe we can find a way forward that allows change without destroying the livelihoods of honest, hardworking people and allowing smokers and non-smokers to enjoy their leisure time in harmony.

Thank you for accepting my letter as part of the consultation process in Scotland.

Yours sincerely

R J E Bullough
Spokesperson for
Freedom 2 Choose.