

THE BROOMHOUSE CENTRE
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THE BEACON CLUB

Mr McLetchie, MSP
Constituency Office
20 Spylaw Street
Edinburgh
EH13 0JX

11 FEB 2005

9 February 2005

Dear Mr McLetchie,

I am writing on behalf of the Beacon Club with regard to the forthcoming ban on smoking in public places.

The Beacon Club is a small group providing day care to elderly people with dementia. The Club is one of the services run by the Broomhouse Centre Representative Council, a voluntary organisation based at the Broomhouse Centre. We meet on Mondays and Thursdays with clients attending either once or twice a week at the Centre, a small public building. Clients can smoke after coffee and after lunch in the café area of the building, and currently 55% of clients do so.

We see allowing smoking after meals as part of the provision of care for elderly people with dementia, many of whom have smoked all their lives. We are concerned that when the smoking ban comes into effect smokers with dementia will not wish to come to the Beacon Club.

This will put further strain on the already lengthy waiting lists at social work day centres in south west Edinburgh, which I understand will be exempt from the ban. The successful care of people in the community depends on readily available services which can benefit both the person with dementia and their carers. Day care services can help combat social isolation and problems such as becoming de-skilled and unmotivated in people with dementia and isolation and stress in their carers.

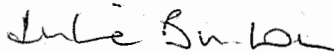
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I am therefore writing to ask if you would seek to amend the bill to make provision to allow a public place in use for the provision of care to be treated as a private space. Our hope is that such an amendment would allow us to claim exemption from the ban on smoking in public places.

If you would like to visit the Broomhouse Centre and see the Beacon Club for yourself I would be delighted to see you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Julie Burton
Co-ordinator