

Draft Smoke-free Regulations 2007 – E-Consultation on-line response

Response from Institute of Public Health

Q1: YES

Q1a: We agree with the proposals for the content and display of no-smoking signs in premises as detailed in regulation 3.

Q2: YES

Q2a: We agree with the proposals for the content and display of no-smoking signs in vehicles as detailed in regulation 4.

Q3: NO

Q3a: All residents living in shared accommodation, both private and social housing have the right to live in a smoke-free environment, and this should include communal areas. All workers, no matter where work is being carried out should be able to work in a smoke-free environment.

Q4: YES

Q4a: We believe that all premises, including designated bedrooms in hotels and other accommodation should be smoke-free. In the event that there are exemptions made, we would ask that an awareness campaign is undertaken to encourage these premises to become voluntarily smoke-free.

Q5: NO

Q5a: Whilst the Institute of Public Health understands the concerns around an individuals right to choose to smoke in residential premises, many of these premises – adult hospices, long stay residential care homes, psychiatric hospitals, prisons – are also places of work and employees here deserve the same protection from harmful Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS).

The prevalence of smoking in psychiatric hospitals and prisons is often very high amongst staff and patients. Smoking is often accepted as the norm in these settings and exposure to ETS can be very high.

Experience has shown that comprehensive smokefree policies can be implemented providing they are flexible, pragmatic and supported by increased accessibility to advise and support in stopping smoking.

The Institute feels that no blanket exemptions should be made to exclude residential premises from smokefree policies. There is clear potential here, not only to protect workers within these premises from ETS, but also to improve the health of residents.

Q6: NO

Q6a: The Institute only agrees with this in the case of research and testing that will help reduce the health impacts of tobacco smoking.

Smoking in a research or testing facility should be tightly controlled and minimise health risks. We do not agree with research or testing which involves the maximizing of profit for tobacco industries. The health of workers should be protected from tobacco smoking at all times.

Q7: YES

Q7a: We welcome that all work vehicles should be smoke-free but believe that a high profile awareness campaign will be necessary.