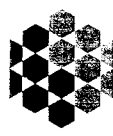


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Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn
**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Investing for Health Team

Mr John Davidson
Chairman
Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs
1 Sultan Square
BELFAST
BT12 4SU

C4.16
Castle Buildings
Belfast
BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 0773
Fax: 028 9052 0535
Email: jim.gibson@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Date: 08 November 2006

Dear Mr Davidson

RE: THE SMOKING (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2006

Thank you for your letter of 16 October in response to the public consultation exercise on draft regulations underpinning the Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

You mentioned the possibility of allowing smoking in a room in a private members' club, where such a room had been designated exclusively for that purpose and to which no staff would be permitted entry.

I should perhaps explain that, although the 2006 Order provides a power for the Department to make regulations providing for specified descriptions of premises, or specified areas within specified descriptions of premises, not to be smoke-free, this power is not exercisable in respect of premises of a club registered under the Registration of Clubs (Northern Ireland) Order 1996.

This, in effect, means that no power exists under the 2006 Order to facilitate smoking in a designated room in a private members' club.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely

R J GIBSON



Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs



John Davidson: Chairman - Tel: 028 9045 1930 - Mobile: 07889 800329
Bob McGlone: Secretary - 1 Sultan Square, Belfast BT12 4SU - Tel: 028 9029 5134 - Mobile: 07889 800331 - Fax: 028 9023 3286
Harry Beckinsale: Public Relations Officer - Tel: 028 9045 9864 - Mobile: 07889 681714 - Fax: 028 9045 9034
E-mail: info@nifederationofclubs.com - Web: www.nifederationofclubs.com

Investing for Health Team (Tobacco Control)
Room C 4.22
Castle Buildings
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Ref: Smoking Consultation

Date: 16th October 2006

To Whom It May Concern,

I write on behalf of the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs in regard to the consultation document related to the smoking ban to be implemented in April 2007 and the areas being considered for exclusion.

Following an in-depth debate on this matter the Executive feel there may be a case for considering the position of a number of private member clubs which are located in what are considered as flash point areas and whose members could be targeted while smoking outside the premises. One must consider that private member clubs have been referred to by various Government Ministers as an extension of the home, in view of which there is a case for considering exclusions in the same light as the case being made for certain hotel rooms, care homes and other institutions.

A number of our member clubs have requested we make a submission to permit a specifically designed room to accommodate members wishing to smoke. The said room would be required to meet the same exacting standards for the establishments outlined in the consultation document. In addition the consumption of alcohol or food would not be permitted and full or part-time staff members would not be permitted to enter the said room, which would be serviced and under the control of the management committee.

Should you feel a meeting would be helpful, please do not hesitate to call me on 07889 800329.

Yours faithfully

John Davidson
Chairman
Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs