

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

Response from Royal College of Nursing (RCN)

Q1: YES

Q1a:

Q2: YES

Q2a:

Q3: YES

Q3a: Whilst the RCN accepts that private residences fall outside the scope of the legislation, we have urged the DHSSPS to devise and publish clear guidance that will help to protect nurses and other health and social care professionals who provide care to people in their own homes. The RCN would be pleased to work with the DHSSPS and others to draft the necessary guidance. We would like the DHSSPS to make a public statement of intent on this matter.

Q4: NO

Q4a: We see no reason at all why any of the above premises should be exempt from the legislation and regard this provision as an unacceptable dilution of the purpose and impact of the legislation. All of these types of premises are workplaces and the people who work within them are entitled to the same protection from second hand smoke as any other group of staff.

Q5: NO

Q5a: The RCN set out its very clear opposition to these exemptions in our previous response to the draft legislation and we are extremely disappointed that the DHSSPS has ignored these concerns. All nurses and other health and social care staff, regardless of where they practise, are entitled to full protection. It is simply unacceptable to argue that some staff are entitled to protection but that others will not. We accept that there are particular issues with regard to mental health settings that necessitate a sensitive approach to this issue but still believe that a commitment must be made to moving towards a wholly smoke-free environment within a defined timetable. We see no reason at all why nursing homes, residential care homes and hospices should be exempted and do not accept the argument that these premises are in some sense akin to private residences. They are workplaces and the staff working within them are entitled to full protection.

Q6: YES

Q6a:

Q7: YES

Q7a:

