

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

Response from SDLP

Q1: YES

Q1a: It is noted by the SDLP that the dimensions for the signage are smaller than that in Scotland where the dimensions are at a minimum of 230mm by 160mm, in light of this should the signage in Northern Ireland have the same minimum standard?

The SDLP note that further guidance should perhaps be given in the legislation to the manager or person in control of said premise to decide on the number of "no smoking" notices required to make sure everybody on the premises is made aware that smoking is not allowed.

The SDLP ask if the signage should display the holder of a particular post (e.g. the manager) to whom a complaint may be made by anyone who observes someone smoking?

The SDLP believe that the signage must be displayed in such a way as to make staff, customers and visitors aware that they must comply with the new law.

The signage should be displayed in such a manner that it is protected from tampering or damage.

Q2: YES

Q2a: For vehicles affected by the ban, "no-smoking" signs must be displayed in such a way that the signs can be seen and read by persons who are in the vehicle, as well as persons approaching the vehicle. If there is to be no legal requirement on the size of these signs. The signs must display the international "no-smoking" symbol 75mm in diameter. In Scotland the diameter is 85mm, we believe that more consideration should be given to the minimum dimensions for this signage in Northern Ireland in light of this.

Q3: YES

Q3a: This exemption would provide additional protection for individuals who live in shared premises. However, we believe further clarity would be helpful regarding how this proposal would be both monitored and enforced. In addition guidance should be issued to residents of these types of private accommodation, if this proposed exemption is agreed upon.

In the interests of best practice the SDLP would like all premises to have a smoke free policy. Health Professionals for example who visit someone's homes should have the same protection as everyone else from passive smoking. Further guidance may be required for staff which have to deal with this situation.

Q4: YES

Q4a: The SDLP agree with this proposal; however we have concerns about trying to enforce the no smoking ban in areas close to or beside the exempt areas. It is important that staff are properly trained and know how to deal with people who break the rule. It would be advisable to have a standard procedure preferably in writing in place for people who smoke in prohibited premises.

Furthermore in the interests of the general public's health and the staff who work there we would like all such premises to be eventually completely smoke free.

Q5: YES

Q5a: The SDLP agree with these recommendations however we believe that in the interests of best practice that such premises try to develop a completely smoke free policy. Health promotion is particularly important for people in residential, nursing homes or mental health units the SDLP believe that residents of such premises should be encouraged and supported in quitting smoking.

Q6: YES

Q6a:

Q7: YES

Q7a: The SDLP welcomes this proposal. We believe that the legislation should apply to vehicles used for business purposes, including light and heavy goods vehicles, and public transport such as taxis, buses, trains and ferries. The SDLP agree that no smoking signs must be displayed conspicuously and permanently in said vehicles and be visible and legible to persons travelling in them.