

Draft Smoking NI Order 2006 econsultation on-line response

Armagh & Dungannon Health Action Zone Response

Q1: YES

Q1a: If you wish to comment, please do so here

Q2: YES

Q2a: If you wish to comment, please do so here

Q3a: NO

Q3b: NO

Q3c: NO

Q3d: NO

Q3e: In relation to above proposed exemptions:

The policy objective is to protect employees and the general public from exposure to second-hand smoke. Consideration should be given to exempting facilities that may be regarded as a persons home, however further consideration will be necessary regarding how 'home' is defined. Exemptions should be restricted as far as possible with smoke free provision only being available within a building rather than exempting whole buildings and any agreed exemption should not apply to staff or visitors to the facility but solely to those who use the building as a 'home'

Q4: NO

Q4a: Suggest clarification regarding responsibilities, it may be more appropriate that it is the owner of the premises who commits the offence and is liable and not the manager.

Q5: NO

Q5a: Suggest that there needs to be a clear deterrent and that fixed penalty notice procedures may not provide that sufficiently. Consideration should be given to how this has worked in practice in Scotland, reviewing the impact that the fixed penalty notice procedures have had in relation to compliance.

Q6: YES

Q6a: Armagh and Dungannon Health Action Zone agrees that it would be consistent and appropriate for enforcement of the legislation to be the responsibility of District Councils.

Q7: YES

Q7a: Armagh and Dungannon HAZ agree the Department should take this power and suggest that it may also be timely to proceed with the raising of the age limit to ensure consistency with current regulations in relation to sale of alcohol and solvents.

Q8: Armagh and Dungannon Health Action Zone supports the conclusions reached by the Department to screen out from further assessment the implications of the draft Order in respect of the grounds listed but would suggest that further evidence in relation to Human Rights would be valuable.

Q9: Yes

Q10: No

Q11: No

Q12: There may potentially be positive benefits/impacts for lower paid workers across the Section 75 grounds.

Q13: Armagh and Dungannon Health Action Zone supports the work that has been done on the assessment of health impacts

Q14: Suggest that the impacts on pregnant women (workers) could have been addressed within the assessment.

Q15: Suggest other evidence may have been helpful namely research carried out on Bar Workers (Cross Border) and other recent European Research.

Q16: Agree with the approach taken

Q17: No

Q18: Yes

Q19: We would support the work that has been done on this and we note that the identified economic benefits in relation to reduced smoking breaks also has clear positive health impacts for workers.

It does appear there is an assumption that businesses will meet the costs of signage that will be required as part of the implementation of the legislation, we would suggest that a co-ordinated approach in this regard might lead to a standardised and consistent approach by businesses.

Q20: Yes

Q21: No

Q22: No

Q23: No

Q24: Armagh and Dungannon Health Zone regards this legislation to be very important and potentially very effective in relation to public health and we welcome its introduction and the opportunity to be involved in this consultation exercise. We look forward to receiving notification of the outcomes of this consultation exercise when available.

