



# ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Burgh Council o' the Airs, Newton an' Blathewick

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ASHLEY BORELAND, LLB (Hons) FCIS  
*Chief Executive*

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

Date

CG 3589

19 December 2007

**DHSSPS**

**Investing for Health Unit**

**Health Improvement Policy Branch (Tobacco Control)**

**Room C4.22**

**Castle Buildings**

**Belfast**

**BT4 3SQ**

**Tel: 028 90520534**

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find attached Ards Borough Council's response to the Departments consultation on the proposal to raise the minimum age of persons to whom tobacco may be sold.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Bannister'.

**Graeme Bannister**

Principal Environmental Health Officer



## QUESTIONNAIRE

### Response from Ards Borough Council

**Q1. Article 14 of the Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 provides the power for the Department to amend the age of sale of tobacco products, but this must not be lower than the present age of 16 years. Do you think the Department should:**

**continue with the present age limit of 16;**

**increase the age limit to 17; or**

**increase the age limit to 18?**

**Please tick the appropriate box to indicate which of the options you favour.**

No Change

Increase to 17

Increase to 18

**X**

**If you wish to comment on your preferred option, please do so here.**

We welcome the positive health benefits outlined under the option for 18.

We agree with the option of 18 as it brings NI legislation into line with the rest of the UK and ROI in relation to sale of tobacco products and other products such as butane.

Retailers should be able to more easily identify persons less than 18 years.

## General

**Q2. Do you have any views on the conclusions reached by the Department to screen out from further assessment the implications of the proposals in respect of:**

- (a) **Social Impact Assessment (New TSN, Homelessness etc);**
- (b) **Rural ;**
- (c) **Environmental;**
- (d) **Human Rights;**
- (e) **Victims;**
- (f) **Community Safety & Other Areas?**

Is there any other evidence which you consider should have been taken into account in these assessments?

No

The Department would particularly welcome comments on the following:

**Q3. Do you agree with the decision that the proposals do not require a full equality impact assessment? (see Annex 1 of consultation package). If not, please explain why?**

Yes

**Q4. Is there any other qualitative or quantitative information which you consider should have been taken into account in performing this exercise?**

No

**Q5. Are you aware of any evidence - qualitative or quantitative - that the proposals may have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations? If so, please provide details. Can you suggest any ways of avoiding or minimising such adverse impact?**

No

**Q6. Are you aware of any other equality implications likely to arise from the proposals?**

Non- national retail premises may require information and leaflets and new signage in various languages.

**Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)**

(see Annex 2 of consultation package)

**Health**

**Q7. Do you have any views on the assessment of health impacts?**

We agree with and welcome the proposed positive impact on health and well being.

**Q8. Are there any other potential health impacts that you consider should have been addressed?**

No

**Q9. Is there any other material evidence which you consider should have been taken into account in this assessment of health impacts?**

No

**Economic**

**Q10. Do you have any general comments on the overall approach that was taken in completing the RIA?**

No

**Q11. Do you consider that there are other issues which need to be taken into account in the assessment of the impact on business?**

Point 6.17 page 35 refers to an estimated cost of £22,250 for new signage. It is expected that this cost will be met by the DHSSPS

**Q12. Do you agree with the analysis of the sectors and business/organisations which might be particularly affected by the proposals?**

Yes

**Q13. What are your views on the identification and assessment of the costs and benefits?**

Point 6.20 page 35 refers to the employment of additional Tobacco Control Officers who will provide focus for such activities. However, these Officers are employed on temporary contracts up until end June 2008.

### **Public Expenditure and Public Service**

**Q14. Do you agree with the Department's view that a separate Economic Appraisal is not required?**

Yes

### **Impact on Small Businesses**

**Q15. Do you agree that the proposals will not have a disproportionate impact on small businesses?**

Yes

**Q16. Are there any impacts on small businesses that you consider should have been addressed?**

No

**Q17. Is there any other material evidence which you consider should have been taken into account in assessing the impact on small businesses?**

No

**Rural Proofing**

**Q18. Do you agree that the proposals will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on rural business?**

Yes

**Q19. Are there any rural impacts that you consider should have been addressed?**

No

**Q20. Is there any other material evidence which you consider should have been taken into account in this assessment of rural impacts?**

No

**Additional Comments**

**Q21. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the Integrated Impact Assessment Overview? (Annex 1 of consultation package)**

No

**Thank you for taking time to complete this Questionnaire.**