

**Response from NHS Education for Scotland
Smoking in Public Places Consultation SEHD Response Form**

1. Having considered the health risks associated with passive smoking, do you think that further action needs to be taken to reduce people's exposure to second-hand smoke?

(Please tick one box only)

Yes No Don't Know

Response YES

Please provide any other comments here

As there is now a body of evidence on the links between passive smoking and lung cancer, heart disease and the aggravation of conditions such as asthma and chronic bronchitis. Whilst much progress has been made in recent years to increase smoke-free environments, it is now clear that much more needs to be done.

2. Would you support a law that would make enclosed public places smoke-free? (Public places include workplaces and public transport) *(Please tick one box only)*

Yes No Don't Know

Response YES

Please provide any other comments here

The introduction of smoking policies that restrict or ban smoking in the workplace can result in a reduction in the short-term effects of passive smoking and improve the quality of the working environment for all staff. Smoking policies that ban smoking in the workplace have also been shown to encourage smokers to give up smoking. Ventilation systems have been suggested as a means of reducing exposure to second-hand smoke in workplaces and leisure facilities, but research suggests that the air-flows possible with current ventilation systems are not sufficient to eliminate the health risk associated with second-hand smoke. Therefore we would support a law that would make enclosed public places smoke free.

3. If a law was introduced, do you think there should be any exemptions to it? (i.e. any enclosed public places where smoking should be allowed) *(Please tick one box only)*

Yes No Don't Know

Response No

Please provide any suggestions, reasons or other comments here

The argument to include exemptions may be a strong one especially in areas such as residential care homes. However, for the wellbeing of the whole community including those staff that are employed in such places, we would recommend that there are no exemptions.

4. If we decide not to introduce a law, what more could be done to encourage individual businesses to take voluntary action to become smoke-free or to provide more smoke-free provision?

Workers and customers in some environments are liable to experience much greater exposure to second-hand smoke. To encourage improvements in smoke-free provision for example in the licensed, tourism and hospitality sector, employers and organisations should be further encouraged, perhaps by additional incentives, to set a formal smoking policy. Such a policy may allow for the introduction of different levels of smoke-free risk below can be both implemented and strictly monitored:

- *Smoking*: no special segregation or special ventilation equipment;
- *Ventilated*: non-defined areas, but special ventilation equipment used to improve the comfort of non-smokers;
- *Designated areas*: with spaces clearly defined for smoking and non-smoking;
- *Separated*: smoking and non-smoking areas separated by walls; and
- *Non-smoking*: no smoking allowed at any time.

5. What else could we do to reduce people's exposure to second-hand smoke?

Please provide any suggestions or other comments here

The government can further invest in smoking cessation strategies for the public including increased access to appropriate smoking cessation medicines and support to reduce the amount of smokers in the community in Scotland.

The government can continue to work with the business sector to accelerate smoke-free provision through voluntary action. This could, for example, involve industry groups agreeing and committing to deliver against targets for expanding the number of smoke-free public places or the percentage of premises with enclosed smoke-free areas.

6. Please let us know about any other views you have about smoking in public places

The aim of NHS Education is to contribute to the highest quality of health care in NHS Scotland by promoting best practice in the education and lifelong learning of its entire staff. NHS Education has a commitment to ensure the welfare of its own staff and a responsibility to help educate and train the NHS workforce, which includes the health protection of that workforce.

NHS Education fully supports a policy which aims to ban smoking in public places

NHS Education has in place a Health Promotion Working Group who are currently running an anti-smoking week within the workplace. This includes a number of initiatives such as displaying leaflets and posters; advising staff of useful websites etc. It has also set up an e-forum for NHS Education staff to post opinions and thoughts on the Smoking in Public Places consultation document to allow staff the opportunity to express their personal views.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE RESPONDEE INFORMATION FORM OVERLEAF TO ENSURE WE HANDLE YOUR RESPONSE APPROPRIATELY
INFORMATION TO HELP US UNDERSTAND YOUR VIEWS

7. Are your views personal or are you representing those of an organisation?
(Please tick one box only)

Personal Go to question 8 **On behalf of a group or organisation** Go to Respondee Information Form overleaf

8. **Do you smoke?** (Please tick one box only) Yes No

9. **Are you?** (Please tick one box only) Male Female

10. **What age are you?** (Please tick one box only)

Under 16 16-24 25-59 60 and over

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately:

1. Name: NHS Education for Scotland

Address: Central Offices, 22 Queen Street, Edinburgh.

Consultation title: **Smoking in Public Places**

2a. IF YOU ARE RESPONDING AS AN INDIVIDUAL:

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

Yes (go to 2b below) No, not at all

2b. Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your response available to the public

on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes)

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

2c. IF YOU ARE RESPONDING ON BEHALF OF A GROUP OR ORGANISATION:

Your name and address as respondees *will be* made available to the public (in the SE library

and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

Yes No **YES**

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT