

Smoking Prohibition (Children in Motor Vehicles) (Scotland)

Heather Bath

1. Do you support the Bill? Please provide reasons for your position.

Yes. Evidence is now very clear that second hand smoke causes ill health to children and young people, and that levels of second hand smoke in cars is very high. Whether the window is open or not, the levels of SHS have been shown to be of a dangerous nature, especially to young children.

2. Do you think the Bill (if enacted) would achieve its aim of protecting children from the effects of second-hand smoke and their health? Please provide an explanation for your answer.

Yes. Other legislative measures around safety in vehicles have been shown to be effective. For example, seat belt legislation. It can be shown that legislative measures do impact on behaviour change and with this change, there should be a reduction in the number of children who will be exposed to dangerous levels of SHS in cars.

3. Is there anything in the Bill you would change? If yes, please provide more details.

No

4. Who do you think should have responsibility for enforcing the proposed legislation and why?

This should be enforceable by those who enforce any other legislation relating to car safety, probably the police.

5. What type of vehicles do you think should be exempt from the legislation and why?

Any vehicle in which children travel.

6. What is your view on the Bill's provision for a defence that the person smoking could not have reasonably known that the other occupants of the vehicle were under 18?

It is very unlikely that the age of young people travelling in a car would not be known to the driver, except in the case of taxis. This seems to be a very weak defence.

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