

Smoking Prohibition (Children in Motor Vehicles) (Scotland) Bill

NHS Grampian

<p>1</p>	<p>Do you support the Bill? Please provide reasons for your position.</p>	<p>NHS Grampian is completely supportive of this Bill and this support has been expressed in our response to the comprehensive consultation carried out to support earlier stages of the development.</p> <p>Although this is a private members bill, it is entirely in-keeping with the objective of national tobacco control strategy Creating a Tobacco Free Generation (SG, 2013). Reducing smoking has an incontrovertible role in health improvement, enacting the Bill would emphasise Tobacco Control outcomes as a continuing cross-party priority and provide an excellent context for improving the health of Scotland’s people in the long term</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>A comprehensive body of evidence supported the earlier development stage of this bill. It is summarised in the Explanatory Notes and Policy Memorandum which accompanying the bill and shows that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exposure to smoke; particularly in a confined space will have an adverse impact on child health. 2. Tobacco control legislation, including bans on smoking and the application of fixed penalties, is effective in improving health. <p>Implementation of a ban on smoking in public places in Scotland in 2006 has been seen to support improvements in rates of childhood asthma and a reduction in premature birth rate. Children can be particularly vulnerable to the side effects of second hand tobacco smoke and are often unable to remove themselves from smoking environments or seek alternative mode</p>

		of transport.
3	Is there anything in the Bill you would change? If yes, please provide more details.	No. In the earlier stages of development we were able to query and clarify elements of the proposed Bill. These were directly addressed by Jim Hume MSP and we are content with the Bill as it is. The Explanatory Notes and Policy Memorandum show that considerable thought has been given to carefully and humanely enacting the Bill.
4	Who do you think should have responsibility for enforcing the proposed legislation and why?	The proposal that enforcement should be carried out by Police Scotland is sound. Consideration could be given to enabling Community Wardens to enforce the Bill where vehicles are stationary.
5	What type of vehicles do you think should be exempt from the legislation and why?	In general we do not think that any vehicle should be exempt. Exposing children to smoke should be recognised as harmful and made illegal. We accept that it would not be practical to apply the measures in this Bill to vehicles that are adapted as family homes but do advocate that the risks are offset by further public health measures to prevent exposure of children to smoke in the home.
6	What is your view on the Bill's provision for a defence that the person smoking could not have reasonably know that the other occupants of the vehicle were under 18?	The person driving the vehicle would have to have made a demonstrable effort to check that no one under 18 is on the vehicle.

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