

# The smokefree debate

20 September 2005



**Health**  
Promotion  
Agency

# The smokefree debate

## Background

Over the last few years, the weight of evidence for serious risks to health from passive smoking has grown too great to ignore. This has led to an increased focus on the need to protect people from exposure to these risks in their workplaces, and an ever-growing number of countries have passed legislation to protect workers.

Between December 2004 and March 2005 the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety carried out a consultation on *A healthier future: a twenty year vision for health and wellbeing in Northern Ireland*. One part of the consultation invited responses to the question of whether or not there should be new legislation to restrict smoking in certain places. There were 71,000 responses to this question, and 91% stated a preference for legislation to be introduced to ban smoking in all enclosed public places and workplaces.

In June 2005 the Minister for Health announced his intention to introduce some level of ban on smoking in public places, and said that the next step is to decide how far it will go. Final proposals are expected to be put forward in the autumn.

While there is evidence of considerable public support for a complete ban on smoking in workplaces and public places, there is a range of issues relating to the legislation which are of interest to different groups, including:

- the health risks of environmental tobacco smoke (ETS);
- the extent to which ETS can be controlled by ventilation and air-conditioning systems;
- how legislation might impact on health inequalities;
- the impact of smokefree legislation on business, in particular the hospitality industry, and on the economy;
- social and legislative issues around protecting the workforce.

A full programme can be downloaded from  
[www.smokefreenorthernireland.com](http://www.smokefreenorthernireland.com)

## **Aim**

This half-day seminar aims to raise awareness and increase understanding of the issues around smokefree legislation. It also seeks to provide an opportunity for a diverse audience to discuss and debate the benefits of smokefree legislation.

## **Target audience**

Public health professionals from the statutory, community and voluntary sectors, environmental health practitioners, policymakers, employers and union representatives.

## **Date**

Tuesday 20 September 2005

## **Time**

9.30am – 1.00pm, followed by lunch

## **Venue**

Park Plaza Hotel, Belfast International Airport

## **Cost**

There is no cost to participants for this seminar.

## **Closing date for applications**

Please return the attached booking by Monday 12 September 2005 to:

Claire Hind, Training Administrator  
Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland  
18 Ormeau Avenue  
Belfast BT2 8HS  
Tel: 028 9031 1611 (Voice/Minicom)  
Fax: 028 9031 1711  
Email: [c.hind@hpani.org.uk](mailto:c.hind@hpani.org.uk)

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(Booking forms are also available to download or submit online at  
[www.healthpromotionagency.org.uk](http://www.healthpromotionagency.org.uk))

**Please complete all details in BLOCK capitals. Please photocopy this form for each individual attending.**

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Job title \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Work address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Work telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify any special dietary or access requirements \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_



**Health**  
Promotion  
Agency

**Smokefree**  
Northern Ireland



**Investing**  
for Health

Smokefree Northern Ireland is an alliance of 41 organisations that came together to encourage people to state their support for a ban on smoking in all enclosed public places and workplaces. This was coordinated through a website which provided a central point for accessing information, resources and links relating to the smokefree campaign. This website, including a complete list of partners, can be found at

[www.smokefreenorthernireland.com](http://www.smokefreenorthernireland.com)