

John Glen
Scottish Executive Health Department
Tobacco Control Division
3 E(R)
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

28th February 2007

Dear Mr Glen,

Cancer Research UK response to the Smoking Prevention Working Group report: "Towards a future without tobacco"

Cancer Research UK¹ is the world's largest independent organisation dedicated to cancer research, with a research spend of over £257 million in 2005/06. Our vision is that together we will beat cancer. We carry out world-class research to improve our understanding of cancer and to find out how to prevent, diagnose and treat different types of the disease.

One of our absolute priorities is to reduce the number of people getting cancer. We know that smoking causes one in four cancer deaths² and that although there has been a decline in prevalence in recent years, this has been concentrated in older age groups.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

Cancer Research UK is generally very supportive of the proposals and would welcome a commitment from the Scottish Executive to act on the recommendations made by the Smoking Prevention Working Group. We believe that the recommendations offer a clear way forward in reducing smoking among young people in Scotland.

1. We strongly commend the call for policies to be evidence-based as far as possible; for proper monitoring and evaluation of implemented policies; and the call for the commissioning of further research in specific areas where more information is needed before policy decisions can be made. We particularly welcome the report's recommendation (point 6.15) for a fully resourced five year Action Plan with performance measures, to be monitored by the Scottish Ministerial Group for Tobacco Control. We hope that this plan would consider timescales and resources and ask the Executive to clarify how these recommendations will be implemented and what resources will be available.

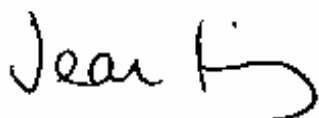
¹ Registered charity no. 1089464

² Doll R, Peto R. The Causes of Cancer. J Natl Cancer Inst 1981; 66:1191-308.

2. We would specifically like to support recommendation 19 which calls for the prohibition of the display of cigarettes at the point of sale and for cigarettes to be replaced by a simple list of the brands available and their prices. This could have a considerable impact. In addition, after its exemplary role in enacting smokefree legislation, this would further show Scotland as a leading nation in tobacco control.
3. We also welcome the action already taken by the Scottish Executive Government to work with the UK Government on other key issues such as tobacco smuggling and strongly support the recommendations made in point 3.31.
4. While we commend the focus on young people and efforts to reduce adolescent smoking, we believe it is critical that the Scottish Executive Government continues to take measures to reduce the number of adults that smoke. We know that children are three times more likely to smoke if both of their parents smoke.³ We would therefore welcome further initiatives to encourage adult cessation.

We would be happy to provide any further information or detail as required. Please contact Vicky Crichton, Public Affairs Officer, on 0131 310 4368 or at vicky.crichton@cancer.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Jean King
Director of Behavioural Research & Tobacco Control
Cancer Research UK

³ Teenage smoking attitudes in 1996. Office for National Statistics, 1997.