

# Response ID ANON-QRUY-NMHF-T

Submitted to **Prohibiting smoking outside hospital buildings: Consultation**

Submitted on 2020-01-10 08:14:55

## Ministerial Foreword

### Section 1 - No-smoking area

**1 Do you support the proposal that the distance from hospital buildings which will form the perimeter of the no-smoking areas outside a hospital building should be 15 metres?**

Yes

**If you have any comments on the perimeter distance please record those here.:**

We are aware of the work undertaken by Scottish government to define an acceptable perimeter and support the recommendation that this be 15 meters. However we are aware that NHS Boards attempt to implement this in all NHS grounds which is something we also support.

**2 Do you support the proposal that the perimeter should be measured from the outside wall of a building and include all land or area under any canopy or overhang even where those extend beyond 15 metres?**

Yes

**If you have any comments on how and from where the perimeter distance should be measured please record those here.:**

This should also cover spaces such as internal courtyards/ open areas within the buildings and canopies.

### Section 2- No-smoking notices

**3 Do you support the proposal to set the wording and dimensions of no smoking notices as described above?**

No

**If you have any comments on the proposed wording and dimensions please record those here.:**

In discussion with colleagues in NHS Boards, it has become apparent to us that the proposed wording may not make clear who is responsible for managing buildings. This is the case where hospital sites also cover areas of University research and teaching facilities. Those responsible for managing the buildings should be responsible for handling complaints - guidance and support will be required for sites to clarify this.

### Section 3 – Exceptions

**4 Do you support the proposal that no specific hospital or type of hospital should be exempted under the definition of “hospital” in the Act?**

Yes

**If you have any comments on this exception please record those here.:**

Although this is not our area of expertise, we are aware that there are a range of different types of hospital and the policy should apply to all - the policy should be for a smokefree NHS so should not except particular types of hospitals/health care facilities including those where medical and other clinical (and in many cases non clinical) staff are trained/taught.

**5 Do you support the proposal that no-smoking areas will only apply to buildings used wholly or partly as a hospital?**

No

**If you have any comments on this exception please record those here.:**

This could cause difficulties with implementation and create areas on hospital sites (laundries, cafeterias etc on hospital sites) that are exempt from the regulations. The regulations should apply to the hospital site as a whole.

**6 Do you support the proposal that public footpaths, cycle paths and footways should be considered hospital grounds for the purposes of establishing no-smoking areas outside the doorways of hospital buildings, and that the size of the grounds would extend up to 15 metres from the centre of doorways.**

Yes

**If you have any comments on this please record those here.:**

We support this, no additional comments

### Section 4 - Nicotine Vapour Products on hospital grounds

**7 Do you support the proposal that the use of NVPs should be allowed as an alternative to smoking on hospital grounds but not within the no-smoking area outside hospital buildings?**

Yes

**If you have any comments on the proposal please record these here. :**

The existing evidence, including from well conducted studies in the UK that our Consortium members have been involved in, show that NVPs contain no tobacco, help smokers to quit and substantially reduce exposures to tobacco toxicants and carcinogens. Recent research from Scotland also suggests that smokers who switch to NVPs experience reductions in risk markers for cardiovascular disease. Exposure to NVP emissions is not harmful to health compared to tobacco smoke. Permitting use of NVPs outdoors but away from no smoking areas (i.e. on the wider grounds) represents an opportunity for patients and visitors to encourage tobacco cessation while still supporting implementation of the new regulations to prohibit smoking outside hospital buildings. Smokers who switch to vaping improve their health and reduce exposure to SHS for others around them. Current vaping products bear little or no resemblance to cigarettes and viewing others vaping does not encourage smoking, in contrast smokers who report regular exposure to other people using e-cigarettes are more likely to try and quit and be more motivated to quit. Vaping for smoking cessation is endorsed by Scotland's consensus statement on the topic, and members of our Consortium were involved in developing this statement.

**Section 5 – Equalities**

**8 Do you consider there to be any positive or negative impacts on equality as a result of the proposals in this consultation.**

Yes

**If you have comments on any potential impact on equalities please record these here together with evidence and advice on mitigating actions. :**

The proposals have the capacity to support and promote equality and diversity. They will provide further protection for staff, patients and visitors from second hand smoke/environmental tobacco smoke and this includes pregnant women and children. Existing primary studies and systematic reviews of smokefree policies show that they can benefit all groups and have the capacity to support smoking cessation.

**About you**

**What is your name?**

**Name:**

Professor Linda Bauld

**What is your email address?**

**Email:**

Linda.Bauld@ed.ac.uk

**Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?**

Organisation

**What is your organisation?**

**Organisation:**

SPECTRUM - Shaping Public Health Policies To Prevent Inequalities and Harm . SPECTRUM is a research consortium funded by the UK Prevention Research Partnership and includes 10 Universities and partner organisations. Our focus is on conducting research to inform efforts to reduce Non-communicable Diseases by addressing the commercial determinants of health, primarily relating to tobacco, alcohol and food. We have no links with the tobacco industry.

**The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:**

Publish response with name

**We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?**

Yes

**Evaluation**

**Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)**

**Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:**

Very dissatisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**

**Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:**

Very dissatisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**