

The Tobacco and Primary Medical Services (Scotland) Act 2010: A Consultation on Tobacco Draft Regulations Response from Children in Scotland

On behalf of our membership, Children in Scotland is pleased to respond to this consultation on tobacco draft regulations. We strongly supported the measures in the Tobacco and Primary Medical Services (Scotland) Act 2010 that ban displays of tobacco products and remove tobacco vending machines. We also strongly support the evidence submitted to this consultation by one of our member organisations, ASH Scotland.

Preventing access to, and significantly reducing, the use of tobacco products by children and young people will help prevent some of them from taking up smoking. This is key to preventing future ill health and premature death from smoking related diseases in Scotland. We hope that these regulations will have the intended affect of making tobacco less attractive and available to children and young people.

Children in Scotland supports the measures outlined in the draft regulations as the best way of limiting the visibility of tobacco products in shops. We also believe that the commencement timetable from 2011-13 seems to provide shops of all sizes with sufficient time to enact these proposals.

Retailers should be provided with guidance on displays and price lists to prevent any inadvertent and intentional display of products to customers. Price lists with product images and other information materials should only be made available to those aged 18 and over.

The Act establishes a registration scheme to prevent illegal sales. We would encourage the Scottish Government to take all action necessary to tackle the trade in illicit and illegal tobacco in Scotland, which is often actively targeted at under 18's, and takes place in both shops and other settings.

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Children in Scotland is Scotland's national agency for organisations and professionals working with and for children, young people and their families. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that policies and services and other provisions are of the highest possible quality and are able to meet the needs of a diverse society. Children in Scotland represents more than 400 members, including 90% of Scottish Local Authorities, all major voluntary, statutory and private children's agencies, professional organisations, as well as many other smaller community groups and children's services. It is linked with similar agencies in other parts of the UK and Europe.

The work of Children in Scotland encompasses extensive information, policy, research and practice development programmes. The agency works closely with MSPs, the Scottish Government, local authorities and practitioners. It also services groups such as the Cross Party Parliamentary Group on Children and Young People (with YouthLink Scotland). In addition, Children in Scotland hosts Enquire - the national advice service for additional support for learning, and Resolve: ASL, Scotland's largest independent education mediation service.