

Dear Secretary of State,

The Choosing Health in Chorley and South Ribble group (an alliance between Chorley & South Ribble PCT, Chorley Borough Council and South Ribble Borough Council) welcome the proposed legislation to introduce Smoke Free public places and workplaces but express concern regarding the proposed exemptions for this legislation.

We believe that second hand smoke in the workplace and enclosed public places poses a serious health risk to both employees and members of the public. No one, be they a smoker or a non-smoker should be forced to breathe in someone else's tobacco smoke.

Chorley and South Ribble are completely committed to reducing deaths attributed to cancer and coronary heart disease as well as deaths and debilitating conditions formed as a result of second hand smoke. Outlined in the strategies for both Local Strategic Partnerships is a strong commitment to workplace health along with a commitment to a Smoke Free Chorley & South Ribble. The proposed exemptions outlined in the smoke free legislation undermine this commitment.

Our concerns are that these exemptions will make legislation difficult to enforce and therefore unworkable and that inequalities in health will be more evident in some of the more deprived wards of Chorley and South Ribble. We also consider that clear and comprehensive legislation will help to reduce the number of young people starting to smoke.

All workers deserve protection. With recent international research concluding that more than one bar worker dies each week in this country from the exposure to second hand smoke, it is imperative that we make every effort to reduce this risk.

We therefore as a group urge you adopt Option 2 in the consultation document on smoke free legislation and that you introduce national legislation to make all public places and workplaces smoke free (without exemptions) thereby protecting all residents of Chorley & South Ribble.

Your Sincerely,

Chorley & South Ribble PCT.

Chorley Borough Council

South Ribble Borough Council