

I wish to make a contribution to the enquiry on the proposed changes to smoke free premises where filming or drama productions are taking place. I do not feel the proposal should be agreed to. The actors/actresses and wider production team are at a place of work and legislation to prohibit smoking in work places was introduced for accepted health reasons.

Whilst a smoke free environment may detract from the authenticity of film or drama productions, I question whether the absence of smoking scenes will be crucial to the performance. The performance industry employs talented artistic directors and cast members. These people are more than capable of making successful productions without smoking being part of the performance.

The economic argument for an exemption to smoke free legislation for film and drama productions will set a precedent for any business to request an exemption on economic grounds - e.g. public houses.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Joseph Patton