

Mark Drakeford AM
The National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF99 1NA

28th January 2013

Dear Mr Drakeford

On behalf of ASH Wales, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to present our argument to the Sub-Committees on the Smoke-free Premises etc. (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012. We welcomed the chance to present the strong evidence in favour of maintaining the existing regulations to protect the workforce in the television and film industries in Wales.

We would like to take this opportunity to briefly expand some of the key points that were raised during our evidence session, in particular with regard to the risks of exposure to second-hand smoke. The dangers of exposure are explicitly referenced in Article 8 of the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC, available at <http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2003/9241591013.pdf>), to which the UK is signatory. In the associated explanatory guidelines, Principle 1 clearly states that there is **no** safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke, whilst Principle 2 states that **all** people should be protected from exposure to tobacco smoke. The FCTC also pushes strongly for universal coverage to be achieved immediately, with a continuing obligation on signatories to move as quickly as possible to remove any exemptions.

Data has also been collected that demonstrates that even occasional exposure to second-hand smoke can have damaging health implications. In an article published in the British Medical Journal in 2007 on the subject of exposure of non-smoking adults to second-hand smoke following the implementation of Scottish smoke-free legislation, Haw and Gruer note that even occasional exposure is associated with cardiovascular changes (article available at: <http://www.bmj.com/content/335/7619/549?grp=1>). In the 2006 Report *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke*, the US Surgeon General confirmed that even a small amount of second-hand smoke can be harmful to health (<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/secondhandsmoke/report-index.html>).

With regard to the question raised by the committee, we can confirm that we are not aware of any work that has been done specifically on the prevalence of smoking-related diseases amongst cast and crew on TV and film sets in comparison with other sectors of the workforce. However, in addition to the impact of second hand smoke highlighted above, there is clearly a risk of a non-smoking actor becoming addicted to nicotine, which is widely known as a highly addictive substance, with all the attendant harms or the provocation of a relapse amongst members of cast and crew who have successfully quit smoking previously.

Once again, we thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely



Elen de Lacy
Chief Executive