

Protect Scotland's shops - ask your MSP for support!

Politicians in the Scottish Parliament are currently debating proposals to ban the display of tobacco products in all of Scotland's shops. The Scottish Government wants this ban because they say it will stop young people smoking.

The Scottish Wholesale Association has until Friday 28th August 2010 to send in a petition to the Scottish Parliament.

As a dedicated and responsible retailer, you will know just what this extra burden of legislation could mean for your business.

Bans in Iceland and Canada have been quoted as "proof" that display bans work,

but the numbers just don't support the claims. The evidence from other countries fails to prove that display bans do anything to reduce smoking among young people.

John Key, the Prime Minister of New Zealand agrees and in February announced that they were shelving plans for a display ban because there is "no international evidence that it actually works, and it's hugely expensive to do it" (New Zealand Press Association, 24 February 2009).



What can you do? Write to your MSP!

Sign the petition to make your voice count. Please encourage your customers to sign the petition – after all your customers are the ones who will be most affected. Paper copies are available from your wholesaler or from SWA, 30 McDonald Place, Edinburgh EH7 4NH, or download from our website www.scottishwholesale.co.uk

Invite your MSP to come and see you in your shop. After all, they are elected by you and your customers to represent the interests of the local community. Let them see how hard you work and how much harder things will become if you have to keep tobacco out of sight.

Tell your customers what it will cost to modify your shop to comply - £1,000 at the very least and possibly as much as £5,000 depending on what has to be done.

Are you involved in the No ID No Sale campaign?
If not you should be!



Remember criminals have no scruples about selling illegal tobacco products to children, undermining all the good work you are doing. It is important that your MSP understands this.

We only have until Friday 28th August 2009 to put together the signatures to be presented to the Scottish Parliament by Friday 25th September 2009.

Ask them why it is legal for adults to buy cigarettes for young children when it is illegal for them to buy alcohol for young people (known as proxy purchasing).

Ask your MSP to write back to you to tell you what they will be doing to support retailers as the subject is debated in the Scottish Parliament.

(To find out who is your local MSP – just Google Scottish Parliament and click on Members)

My local MSP is

Address

.....

..... Postcode

Telephone

You can use this space to keep a note of important dates and any conversations you have with your MSP.

