

POLICY ON SMOKING

General

1. This policy has been developed to protect everyone who uses University premises – employees, students, visitors, contractors, etc – from exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and to assist compliance with the Health Act 2006 and other relevant legislation*.
2. With effect from 1st July 2007, all premises owned or managed by the University were designated as smokefree areas; it is against the law for anyone to smoke in a smokefree area.
3. Smoking can only take place outside smokefree buildings, but to avoid smokers congregating close to building entrances, windows, etc, where their smoke could enter the workplace and cause a nuisance to others, a 5 metre exclusion zone is in operation around smokefree buildings.
4. This policy also applies to the use of electronic cigarettes. The use of electronic cigarettes is prohibited wherever smoking is prohibited.

Implementation

1. The University expects the full cooperation of all staff, students and other persons on the premises in complying with this policy and the law.
2. Appropriate no-smoking signs will be clearly displayed at the entrances to, and within, all smokefree premises, and in all smokefree vehicles.
3. Executive Deans of Schools and Heads of Support Departments are responsible for ensuring compliance with the law by everyone on their premises; they will receive appropriate support from the University in carrying out this function.
4. Members of staff are encouraged to advise anyone seen smoking in a non-smoking area that they are contravening the law.
5. The University, through the University's Occupational Health providers and the University's Counselling Services, will support smokers, should they so wish, with medical advice and/or counselling with a view to giving up smoking.
6. Where an individual is a persistent offender and has not heeded reasonable requests to refrain from smoking in smokefree University premises, in a smokefree vehicle or inside a 5 metre exclusion zone, the University will pursue disciplinary action against that person. Those who do not comply with the smokefree law (this applies both to the smoker and the School/Department/University) may also be liable to a fine and possible criminal prosecution.

* There are a number of relevant Regulations made under the Health Act 2006, for example, the Smokefree (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006.

Monitoring & Review

1. The effectiveness of the policy will be monitored on behalf of the University by the Health & Safety Committee, which will also undertake to review the policy at appropriate intervals.

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