

**Tim Lord,  
Chief  
Executive  
TMA,  
comments...**



*The independent survey which the TMA commissioned on smoking in public places shows that the British public has a very practical, common sense attitude to smoking in hospitality outlets, preferring to accommodate smokers and non-smokers where possible.*

*Most people have noticed the improvements in pubs and bars over the last few years and believe more of the same is the most sensible course. The majority do not support a ban and believe that further improvements can be made on a voluntary basis rather than through regulation.*

*At the same time people are sending a message to the hospitality industry that they should keep up the pressure to introduce best practice smoking policies as widely as possible, particularly in restaurants.*



Tim Lord, Chief Executive

## FOCUS POINT

### Smoking in Public Places

In September the TMA commissioned independent research from BMRB into the British public's views on smoking in public places. Almost 2,000 adults in Great Britain were asked a series of questions on smoking in pubs, clubs and restaurants. The survey found relatively little public support for national or local government regulation of smoking in public places, which was advocated by less than a quarter of the total sample.

The main points to emerge from the research were:

- Banning smoking in public places is low on most people's priorities compared with other quality of life issues such as controlling yobbish behaviour and prohibiting litter and graffiti.
- 30 per cent of non-smokers and 55 per cent of smokers have no real concern about smoking in pubs, clubs and bars.
- Only 17 per cent of all adults agree that smoking should be banned completely in pubs, clubs and bars.
- 86 per cent feel that the smoking situation in pubs, clubs and bars has improved in recent years.
- 75 per cent feel more improvements are needed in pubs, clubs and bars but good ventilation is seen as a better solution than banning smoking altogether.
- Only 32 per cent feel that smoking should be banned in restaurants.
- Many people prefer a more flexible approach in restaurants with the most popular option being more non-smoking areas.

The research was carried out by BMRB International using its weekend telephone omnibus survey ACCESS.

A total sample of 1929 interviews with adults aged 18+ living in Great Britain was achieved between the 19 and 21 September 2003.



## IN THE NEWS

### French tax rise

Tobacconists went on strike in France to protest against an increase in cigarette duties that will make the average pack price more expensive than in any other European Union country apart from Britain. The tax rise forms part of Mr Chirac's "war against smoking". The Health Minister hinted that a further tax rise of 1 euro on 20 cigarettes expected next year might be postponed. This will not greatly impact on UK smokers as they tend to buy from Belgium and Spain where prices are cheaper than in France.

### Contribution to Europe's Exchequers

Based on TMA pack collections from 2003, the TMA estimates that smokers give the Belgian Government £210 million every year in taxes by buying their cigarettes in Belgium rather than in the UK. In the same way the French Government gets £120 million and the Spanish Government £230 million.

### Irish public smoking ban

The Irish public smoking ban will not come into effect until mid-February 2004 because of legal problems. Revised regulations were only notified to the European Commission on 3 November. The standstill period will now end on 4 February 2004 and the legislation cannot be enforced until after this date.

### New CAP rules on rolling papers

The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act which is now in force does not cover the advertising of rolling papers and filters. In recognition of their duty to advertise responsibly whilst competing for market share, manufacturers have agreed a set of self-regulatory rules with the Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP). The rules were drawn up in consultation with the Department of Health and will be administered by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA).

Key requirements are that no advertisement for rolling papers or filters should depict anyone smoking; appear in any medium if more than 25% of its audience is under 18 or women under 24; encourage or condone the use of illegal drugs; or imply that smoking is glamorous or aspirational.

### Crimestoppers Afloat

The picture shows one of the Dover Watersports Club's dinghies sponsored by Crimestoppers. The warning to ferry passengers is clear: tobacco smuggling is a crime.



### Smugglers on Westminster Bridge

This man was caught red-handed not a stone's throw away from the Westminster Parliament trying to sell smuggled cigarettes. The problem is on Parliament's doorstep. Cutting UK taxes is the only way to stop it.



## THE MONTHS AHEAD

- **December:** Publication of "Health Survey for England 2002: Children, young people and maternal health" by Department of Health.
- **29 December:** End of standstill period for the Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Point of Sale) Regulations 2003.
- **29 January:** Publication of "Social Trends 2004" by National Statistics.

## Did you know?

- UK Tobacco Manufacturers contributed over £9.5 billion a year to the Government in tax in 2000/01.
- Lost revenue due to tobacco smuggling in 2001/2 was £3.3 billion.
- The current UK tax rate accounts for up to 90% of the retail price of cigarettes.

## TMA CONTACTS

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**PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS FROM 1 DECEMBER 2003:**

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