



The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland

Environmental Health Challenges in Europe and Beyond

Bernard Forteath
President IFEH
Past President REHIS



www.rehis.org

Protecting & Improving Public Health in Scotland



The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland

Definition of Environmental Health

'Environmental Health is that area of public health activity which strives to improve, protect and maintain health and well being through action on the physical environment and on life circumstances'.

References: REHIS commissioned research
– Morris/Robertson Report 2003
– Old Report 2006

www.rehis.org

Protecting & Improving Public Health in Scotland



REHIS

- *governed by a Royal Charter*
- *a registered Scottish charity*
- *can trace its origins back to 1875*
- *promotion of Environmental Health for public benefit throughout Scotland*
- *education, training and qualification of EHOs.*



EHOs are public health professionals

- *Educated on REHIS accredited degree courses*
- *Professionally trained and qualified to standard set by REHIS*
- *CPD compliant/Chartered status.*



EHOs in the Scottish context

- *public health improvement and protection*
- *environmental protection*
- *emphasis on investigation, assessment, evaluation, intervention, reflection, education and ensuring compliance*
- *majority are employed by Scottish local authorities (32) and work at community level*
- *increasing number employed by government agencies, consultancies and by business.*



EHO contribution to PH agenda

SG's agendas for prevention of heart disease, cancer, strokes and well being

- *tobacco control*
- *air quality management*
- *sunbed regulation*
- *anti-social behaviour/noise*
- *environmental incivilities*
- *food and nutrition*
- *substandard housing*
- *community training courses.*



REHIS Founder Member of IFEH

- Over 20 years ago
 - *CIEH*
 - *EHOA Ireland*
 - *REHIS*
- Roy Emerson
 - *First President*
- Eric Foskett
 - *First Secretary*



Membership of IFEH

- Members – 37
 - *National organisations of EH professionals*
- Associate Members – 6
 - *Organisations with an interest in EH*
- Academic Associate Members – 23
 - *Teaching/educational bodies*
- Individual Associate Members – 30





The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland

Organisation of IFEH

- Council
 - 1 to 3 representatives per member
- AGM
- Officers
 - President
 - President Elect
 - Hon Secretary
 - Hon Treasurer
- Registered in UK
 - Company Secretary
- Meets once a year
 - Major issues – votes by postal ballot
- Reports and Elections
- Board
 - Bernard Forteath
 - Robert Bradbury
 - Ray Ellard
 - Steve Cooper
 - Regional Group Reps



The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland

IFEH Policy Statements

- Declaration of Sydney 1988
- EH Management Systems 1991
- EH and Trade Agreements 1993
- Declaration of Kuala Lumpur 1994
- Smoking 1998
- Water and Sanitation 1998
- Environmental Health 1999
- Use of Sustainability Indicators 2005
- Climate Change Dublin 2006
- Brisbane Charter 2008



Smoking – Worldwide Challenge

'Total tobacco attributable deaths are projected to rise from 5.4 million in 2005 to 6.4 million in 2015 and 8.3 million in 2030. Tobacco is expected to kill 50% more people in 2015 than HIV/AIDS, and to be responsible for 10% of all deaths'.



BI - Focus on most populated countries

Target 15 countries where about 2/3 of the world's smokers live:

- China, India, Indonesia, Russia, Brazil,
- Bangladesh, Mexico, Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, Ukraine, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Poland
- Other countries also.



Progress

- Most of the 15 countries have either adopted or are in process of revising or drafting legislation either at sub national or national level with best practice in mind
- Some Leading examples – Mexico City, Turkey about to be 100% SF by 19th July this year, Brazil recent progress, Indonesian cities
- Global movement.



Smoking – Scotland's Challenge

Smoking costs the NHS in Scotland £409 million per year.

**'Tobacco use kills 13,000 people in Scotland every year and is Scotland's greatest public health challenge. Over 26% of the adult population smokes'.*

**Health in Scotland 2006. Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer.*



Legislation

The Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005

The Prohibition of Smoking in Certain Premises (Scotland) Regulations 2006

A Guide for Employers, Managers and Those in Control of Premises

Enforcement Guidance for Environmental Health Staff.



Aims of Legislation

- To improve public health
- Part of overall strategy linked to
 - *smoking cessation*
 - *smoking litter*
 - *under age sales.*



Premises Included

- Very comprehensive – premises which are wholly or substantially enclosed
 - *based on 50% calculation of wall area*
- Virtually all premises included
 - *retail shops, offices, bars etc*
 - *smoking shelters*
 - *bus stops*
 - *Council buildings.*



Exempt Premises

- Residential accommodation
- Designated rooms in adult care homes
- Adult hospices
- Designated rooms in psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric units
- Designated hotel bedrooms
- Designated rooms in offshore installations
- Private vehicles.



Offences

- It is an offence to smoke in an enclosed public place in no-smoking premises
 - includes restaurants, bars, shops and shopping centres, hotels, libraries, cinemas, halls, clubs, sports centres and vehicles
 - £50 fixed penalty notice
- It is an offence to permit persons to smoke in an enclosed public space
 - £200 fixed penalty notice.



Offences 2

- Notices must
 - be displayed in, on or near no smoking premises
 - be protected from tampering, damage, removal or concealment
 - be legible
 - state the name of the responsible person for complaints
 - be 230mm x 160mm minimum
 - £200 fixed penalty notice.



Enforcement

- Non-confrontational approach
- Only focus on permission to smoke – owners/managers
- No enforcement action at time of offence
- Appointments made to discuss non-compliance
- Overt approach – covert not practical or effective
- Warning notices introduced.



Enforcement statistics

| Premises | Number inspected | No smoking in premises - number compliant | No smoking in premises - % compliant | Displaying required signage - number compliant | Displaying required signage - % compliant |
|-------------------|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Hotels | 337 | 333 | 98.81 | 329 | 97.62 |
| Restaurants | 1,263 | 1,260 | 99.76 | 1,229 | 97.30 |
| Licensed premises | 1,467 | 1,456 | 99.25 | 1,427 | 97.27 |
| Other | 4,922 | 4,726 | 96.01 | 4,566 | 92.76 |
| TOTAL | 7,989 | 7,775 | 97.32 | 7,551 | 94.51 |



Smoking – Evaluation of Legislation

- A 17% reduction in heart attack admissions to 9 Scottish hospitals
- An 86% reduction in second hand smoke in bars
- A 39% reduction in second hand smoke in 11 year olds and in adult non-smokers
- An increase in the proportion of homes with smoking restrictions
- No evidence of smoking moving from public places into homes
- Considerable public support for the legislation even among smokers, whose support increased once the legislation was in place.

Study by Glasgow University



Smoking – the next stage

- The minimum age for purchase raised from 16 to 18 years
- Reduction in tobacco advertising imminent
- Reducing the availability of tobacco products.



Climate Change

Greenhouse gases into atmosphere due to:

- *Aviation*
- *Shipping*
- *Motor vehicles*
- *Energy misuse*
- *Waste disposal.*



Climate Change – Forest Destruction

- *The effects of deforestation known for many years but largely ignored*
- *In 1970 about 99% of the Amazon rainforest was still standing ... today?*
- *Probably about 80%*
- *Every minute the equivalent of 6 football fields disappears*
- *Estimated at 40% of the Amazon rainforest will be destroyed within the next 20 years.*



The WHO Agenda

- *Promoting development*
- *Fostering health security*
- *Strengthening health systems*
- *Harnessing research, information and evidence*
- *Enhancing partnerships*
- *Improving performance.*



The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland

In conclusion...

'It is a small world. It is one world and we are each others' keepers and we are the keepers of the whole fragile earth which keeps us all'.

Niall O'Brien



The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland

www.rehis.org



www.ifeh.org

