



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2005**

**SBPA CALLS ON THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT'S HEALTH COMMITTEE TO  
CALL "LAST ORDERS" ON PLANS FOR SMOKING BAN**

The Scottish Beer and Pub Association (SBPA) has called on the Scottish Parliament's Health Committee not to proceed with the Scottish Executive's proposed total smoking ban in enclosed public spaces.

The Association represents 1,500 pubs in Scotland and made its call in its formal response submitted last Friday (11<sup>th</sup> February) to the Scottish Parliament's Health Committee public consultation on the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Bill.

Said Patrick Browne, Chief Executive of the Scottish Beer and Pub Association: "We hope the Scottish Parliament's Health Committee calls last orders on the Scottish Executive's ill judged plans for a total smoking ban in Scotland."

"Scottish public opinion doesn't support the Executive's plans with less than one in five people surveyed in an Executive opinion poll supporting a total ban without any exemptions. The research on which the Executive made its decision to proceed with the ban is itself fatally flawed."

"Scotland's licensed trade has already put forward a five-point plan which would deliver 50% of floor space within Scottish pubs as non-smoking in three years and which would ban smoking where and when food was being served. That proposal gives the industry time to take its customers with them in delivering smoke free areas rather than risking the loss of thousands of jobs and the closure of hundreds of pubs if the Scottish Parliament proceeds with the Executive's total ban."

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**About SBPA**

The Scottish Beer and Pub Association was originally formed in 1906. Our members are made up of brewing and large pub companies representing the licensed trade industry in Scotland. The main aim of the Association is to contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of Scotland through employment, investment and training. Our members account for 1,500 of the 5,100 licensed public houses in Scotland.