

## The Hidden Agenda

**Fact:**

**Caroline Flint (the Minister for Health at the time the smoking ban legislation was being discussed) stated in a Parliamentary Publication – quote:**

*"Given the evidence about the impact of passive smoking, we are concerned that the decision to ban smoking in public places may represent a disproportionate response to a relatively minor health concern. It may be that the unstated objective of policy is to encourage a reduction in active smoking by indirect means. This may well be a desirable policy objective, but if it is the objective, it should have been clearly stated."*

**Fact:**

**The House of Lords, when discussing the passing of The Bill, concurred with Caroline Flint – quote:**

*"The evidence we took on passive smoking leads us to doubt whether government guidelines on risk management have been properly implemented. In particular, the purpose of legislation should have been defined more clearly and greater attention should have been given to available scientific evidence, the relative merits of alternative policy options and the impact of legislation on personal freedom and choice. Failure to consider these matters properly has resulted in the introduction of a policy that appears to demonstrate a disproportionate response to the problem. Lessons learned from the progress of this legislation should be used to ensure that future policy responses are transparent, evidence-based, and proportionate."*

**Fact:**

**The founders of Action on Smoking and Health, the Royal College of Physicians expect to achieve a smoke-free society in the next 20 years.**

By this, it means that nicotine will be delivered to smokers via patches and gum – that is, to those who have failed to stop smoking or are unwilling to quit.

In the interests of public health 'targets', nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) is already widely prescribed, and in many cases this means publicly subsidised.

Pharmaceutical companies benefit from public subsidy: they have a real interest in the promotion of smoking bans, and in the expected moves to restrict high street tobacco sales, which are significant tools in the promotion of their products. It means nothing to them that they are waging a trade war on the back of public funds and simultaneously depriving the public of the freedom to choose.

Source: The Government's Public Health White Paper Cm 6374.

**Fact:**

**Smoking bans do not achieve their ultimate goal of reducing active smoking; they just cause social, economic and political chaos:**

Pubs are closing at unprecedented rates, and in Ireland, we learn that smoking prevalence has shot up from 27% to 29% and the Irish national statistics office have confirmed that zero lives have been "saved" by their ban.

Source: <http://www.independent.ie/opinion/analysis/goodbye-country-pubs-hello-dull-norwegian-clean-living-1376449.html>

**Join the fight against prohibition; against the lies and scandals; against the continued social and economic destruction that it causes.**

**After all – what will be next, we ask ourselves?**

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