Dear First Minister,

I would like to congratulate you on your decision to consult the Scottish public on whether action should be taken to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke.

Glasgow’s poor health is a matter of public record. Men in Glasgow are significantly more likely than other Scots to die from heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory diseases such as chronic bronchitis. The link between smoking and Glasgow’s ill-health is clear and compelling.

In the coming year, more than a thousand Glaswegians will die prematurely because they smoke. The majority of Glaswegians do not, however, smoke. Yet they suffer health consequences as a result of sharing public space with smokers.

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Public Health colleagues working in the West of Scotland more than 30 years ago showed that passive smoking significantly increased the risk of heart disease amongst non-smokers. Since then, the risks of developing lung cancer as a result of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke has also been shown to be significantly elevated. In addition, we estimate that between 300 and 400 children under the age of five are admitted to hospital each year in Glasgow because of exposure to other people’s cigarette smoke. They are admitted with bronchitis, coughing, wheezing, pneumonia and ear infections. Even before birth there is evidence that environmental tobacco smoke can harm developing babies through causing low birth weight.

Environmental tobacco smoke damages the health of every Scot from the youngest to the oldest.

During this consultation you will hear arguments from the tobacco industry and their lobbyists about personal freedom. A fundamental principle underlying the way we live our lives in Scotland is that people should be free to make choices about how they live their lives - so long as those choices do not harm others. Accordingly, we have laws to prevent drivers speeding in built-up areas. We have laws to prevent drivers causing accidents.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Let’s breathe the new life into health improvement

Chief backs ban on smoking

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We have less time to stop public health from becoming increasingly
evasive and exasperating. It is our
every responsibility to keep our
evolutionary tobacco smoke from
taking its victims (including those
in the womb) with it.

So the UNF has done very well
to keep on going and on being
right.

And this is all due to
smoking and it's all preventable.

One of the poorest
and most underprivileged
children is the tobacco-smoke
of other people. This is made much
easier by the fact that there
are many more people who
choose to smoke around other
children or you smoke around other
children, here’s what you smoke
to them...

You’re increasing their chances of suffering from a range of illnesses including cancer (including acute myeloid leukemia), middle ear disease, lower respiratory tract infection (including, group, bronchitis and pneumonia), they’ve got an increased chance of having, asthma and other behavioural problems, they may perform poorly at school, and they may suffer from impaired lung development. That's why action on smoking is top of our priority list to let Glasgow’s people flourish in a smoke-free environment.

Newsgroups' help in Club 70 campaign

NHS Greater Glasgow and hundreds of community shops will start a new initiative to target smokers and make the chance to stop

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Job joy for 32

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Cease to the next health.

Newsgroups was chosen by
the national health service
to set up a national
health service

The second phase of the

The NHS Greater

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Sandy Road clinic opens award

ANALYSIS REPORT - Review of 2003/04

City’s continence service wins Council award

Glasgow medics lead Euro brain surgery project

Talking the Walk

New community stroke service opens

Glasgow City's continence service has been highlighted as a model of best practice in a unique international medical publication.

The new Sandy Road clinic has been given a brand new clinical suite of the new Centre for Health.

Based at the new Sandy Road site, the clinic provides a range of new services for patients suffering from health conditions, health promotion activities, older people’s services and youth and pre-fives services. These will run alongside existing services such as community nursing, podiatry and dental services.

The new three-storey building was constructed on the site of the demolished Sandy Road Day Nursery and replaces the old 1940s Sandy Road Clinic. Children and staff from the former service are now accommodated in a new nursery within the centre.

The Sandy Road centre.

Sandy Road clinic opens

Glasgow's Heart Failure Liaison Service has been highlighted as a model of best practice in a unique international medical publication.

The reference to the AVE you ever wondered what medical equipment will be used in Glasgow hospitals in the next public, it was a surprise.

Whether it was something much more ambitious than the Glasgow School of Art and Glasgow University.

An innovative new community-based pain management service has been introduced which saw NHS Glasgow and its health boards introduce a wide range of people involved in the process.

A new website was also set up as a source of information. 

For instance, thanks to new technology, we have seen a huge reduction in waiting times initiatives were introduced which saw NHS Greater Glasgow and its health boards introduce a wide range of people involved in the process.

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Positive signs of real improvement

By Professor Sir John Arbuthnott
Chairman
NHS Greater Glasgow

The health of the population of Greater Glasgow is showing some signs of improvement, but we’re still lagging behind the rest of Europe. Health inequalities, poverty, the culture of heavy drinking, poor diet, smoking and low levels of exercise produce a deadly cocktail that results in chronic and early death.

Working together, NHS Greater Glasgow and its partners have seen improvements in these areas, but we recognise that even greater effort is needed.

That’s why we’ve been dedicated to improving and developing our existing services and to providing, high quality facilities. Only through our continual drive towards delivering modern, high quality services and improving the health of our communities can we ever hope to see a healthier future for all of us in our community.

This includes plans to modernise Glasgow’s acute hospitals. Over the last year these plans took a major step forward with the start of works on the new Beatson Phase II building at Carntyne and the final stages of the contracts being pulled together for the new Shield and Victoria hospitals.

Modernisation isn’t just about buildings; it’s also about treatments and staff and we’ve seen a number of things happening in these areas. New technology, new treatments and better trained staff have seen us making improvements in areas such as children’s health, addiction, youth health, breast stroke and dental health.

And in the community, the big news in the formation of the new Community Health Partnerships, NHS Greater Glasgow and the Scottish Local Health Care Cooperatives as (CHPs) - which are replacing the primary care trust system - and the formation of the new NHS Greater Glasgow.

Individually, the Board and each of the four Trusts met all of their financial targets for 2003/04. The following tables have been produced by consolidating the information contained in the Accounts of the Health Board and the four Divisions. The tables were adjusted to eliminate any inter Division income and expenditure.
Cervical screening: he owns his life to computer records

D o you ever wonder how all your medical records are stored and protected? Who is responsible for ensuring that your doctor treating you has all the right information? Who is the best person to treat you? And who decides what drugs to prescribe?

We would like to think that this information is correctly managed and that no information is not as it should be.

Every one of us has a CHS (Community Health Index) number which identifies us to the NHS. The Patient Information Development Forum of every hospital patient is in a state to inform the NHS of our patient needs regarding our diabetes- and that two days earlier the GP had put him on a new drug treatment. They also tell him to take their tablets once a day and not to bother with what blood group they are.

NHS Greater Glasgow Information Communication Technology (ICT) staff are at the forefront of a Scottish drive to develop and ensure this - and much more - happens and happens all the time for every patient in every sector in the country.

The reduction in waiting times for orthopaedic surgery is a national waiting time standard.

Cervical screening: he owns his life to computer records

NHS Greater Glasgow Health News

ANNUAL REPORT - NHS Chief's review

T He City of Glasgow

West Dunbartonshire (Clydebank)

North Lanarkshire (Stepps-Moodiesburn corridor)

We agreed that the Scottish Executive and NHS Greater Glasgow must be actively embedded in the Board's core

I am pleased to see that you are working on team development is put in place for Executive and Non

Meeting with the Area Clinical Forum

In our discussion with the Area Clinical Forum I told them that it was closely involved with the Maternity Service Review, and with other key clinical areas where a pan-Glasgow perspective was required.

I would like to thank all the Area Clinical Forum members for their time and their support. The feedback has been very positive.

I have been pleased to see that the Area Clinical Forum has continued to support the work of the Board, and that it continues to respond to the Board's priorities and to make contributions to the strategies being developed by the Board.

The Area Clinical Forum has been an important part of the Board's work, and I would like to express my thanks to all those who have been involved. I look forward to seeing the Area Clinical Forum continue to support the Board's work and to continue to make contributions to the strategies being developed by the Board.
New hospitals are models for the future…

A £1bn scheme began in July when Minister for Health, Community Care Malcolm Chisholm cut the first turf for the final stage of the work on the new Royal Infirmary.

The consultation period ended on 24th October 2003, so there is still time to send in your views and comments.

We're looking for your views on proposals to introduce fluoride to the water supply.

If you want more information on what the proposals are about, the draft consultation policy can be viewed on the NHS Greater Glasgow website at www.nhsgg.org.uk.

Alternatively you can write, phone or e-mail us and comments and to:
Freedom of information ... all you need to know

FROM January 2005, a new law comes into full force that will mean any member of the public can ask public organisations for any type of information ... and on most occasions we have to provide it.

The new Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act affects all public bodies in Scotland and there will be very few types of information that you won’t be able to ask for.

The Act covers more than a 100 public bodies and includes the NHS, local councils and the Police.

So what is the Act and what does it mean?

The Act states that anyone (person or organisation) from anywhere can ask a public body for any bit of stored or written information you like and you don’t have to provide a reason why you want it.

That’s any kind of stored or written information on a range of different subjects. It can include information such as:

- Information on how services are provided;
- Service planning documents;
- Minutes of meetings;
- Information on how services are managed;
- Information on how services are subject to scrutiny;
- Financial information.

The Act covers information held before the Act came into force as well as that which comes after.

A Scottish Information Commissioner has been appointed to ensure that public bodies meet their obligations under the Act. He can serve a ‘practice recommendation’ on an organisation that does not comply with the spirit of the Act which is all about making public bodies more open and accountable.

So how would I ask for information?

All requests under FOISA must be in some permanent form. In most cases that will be in writing (including email) stating clearly the exact information you want.

You don’t have to state that you are making the request under the Act or your reasons for the request, but please ensure you are absolutely clear about what you want or you may be asked to specify what information you require.

You are entitled to receive a response to your request within 20 working days.

You and your staff are in our service and we encourage you to ask for information.

If you want to know more, contact the Freedom of Information Contact Team:

- By telephone on 0141 201 2378 or 0141 201 2346
- By email on fi.team@nhsgg.org.uk

The Freedom of Information Act will be routinely published. This Publication Scheme is on the NHSGG website: www.nhsgg.org.uk.

Most information will be provided free of charge, but you may have to ask you to pay for providing you with certain information based on the cost to us of accessing it. We will let you know what, if any, charge is payable before we go ahead.

So, what information is exempt?

We may not be able to provide you with certain types of information because this information is exempt.

There are 17 exemptions under the Act including confidentiality, personal records (including health records that continue to be covered by Data Protection rules) and information intended for publication in the near future. However, there will be times when other exemptions apply.

Further information about rights under the Freedom of Information Act will be available on our website at www.nhsgg.org.uk or from the persons listed in our Publication Scheme.

Changes in the pipeline

PEOPLE will continue to have a strong say in shaping their services on health care with the introduction of a new Scottish Health Council (SHC) in March next year.

NHS Greater Glasgow Health Council and the 14 local health boards in Scotland, have the responsibility of involving the public in the work of their local NHS.

However from March 31, 2005, these councils will be dissolved and a new national body established, with local offices in each health board area. Members of the public will be on Advisory Councils for each of these offices.

For more information, contact The Scottish Health Council Implementation Team c/o NHS QR, Delta House, St West Nile Street Glasgow, or telephone the team on 0141 227 6899.

Jobs on the web

LOOKING for a new job within NHSGG? Then you’ll be pleased to know that plans are underway to create NHSGG’s very own jobs website. Work is currently taking place to put together the new site and we hope to have the new website up and running by the end of the year.

In the meantime, if you’re looking for a new job in NHS Greater Glasgow, all our vacancies are advertised on www.nhsgg.org.uk/jobs.

Stobhill service

CLAGSW Life provides the information and communications service commemorating Stobhill Hospital’s centenary on Sunday, September 19, 2004. The service is open to all and starts at 6pm, although you are asked to be notified by 4pm. All welcome.

Nominate caring NHS staff for award

HAVE you received outstanding treatment or care from staff in NHS Greater Glasgow? Then now is the time to send in your nomination for the 2005 Greater Glasgow Health Council NHS Awards.

Now in its thirtieth successful year, the awards give patients and members of the public the chance to thank NHS Greater Glasgow staff for the treatment, care and support they’ve received.

You can nominate any NHS Greater Glasgow health worker or department you wish. Nominations will then be looked at by the Health Council before the winners are chosen.

For more information and to obtain a nomination form, contact Greater Glasgow Health Council, 44 Florence Street, Glasgow G3 1YE or tel: 0141 201 7096. Closing date for nominations is November 12, 2004.