

ASH Wales rejects delaying the start of the ban on smoke-free public places

31st January 2007

ASH Wales today condemned a proposed amendment to the legislation introducing smoke free public places in Wales. Under the draft legislation, Wales is due to go smoke free on the 2nd April 2007. An amendment presented by three AMs wants the implementation of the ban to be delayed until July when England will also go smoke free.

Tanya Buchanan, Director of ASH Wales said,

“6 000 people in Wales still die every year as a result of tobacco related diseases. Going smoke free will be the greatest step forward for improving the health of people in Wales. Not only will smoke free public places protect the health of all people from the dangers of second hand smoke, we know that it may assist many smokers who want to quit to do so.

It is unacceptable to delay the implementation of the ban until July. To do so continues to place the health of the people in Wales at risk. We have known about the ban for a long time and there is a lot of support available for businesses to assist them to be compliant with the requirements of the legislation in time for April 2nd.”

ENDS

For further comment please phone ASH Wales on 029 2064 1101 or 07775 852443