



**MAE AMSER MWG  
AIL-LAW AR BEN  
TIME'S UP FOR  
SECOND-HAND SMOKE**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**15/02/2007**

### **Countdown commences to Welsh smoking ban**

With two months to go until the smoking ban in enclosed public places comes into force in Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government has unveiled a digital clock in the heart of Cardiff which will count down the days, hours, minutes and seconds until 2<sup>nd</sup> April. At the same time an advertisement van equipped with a countdown clock will commence a 60-day tour of towns and villages across Wales, providing a visible reminder of the forthcoming ban date for the public and businesses alike.

The main countdown clock will be situated on the glass roof of the Tourist Information Centre at the Old Library in the Hayes, Cardiff. The site was chosen in partnership with Cardiff Council for its prominent location and proximity to the Capital city's shopping centres, bars, restaurants and cafes.

The mobile countdown clock will visit dozens of towns and villages across Wales throughout the two-month period and will feature prominently in a number of initiatives across Wales, including St David's Day and national No Smoking Day on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

John Griffiths, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services said, "The 2<sup>nd</sup> April is fast approaching and before too long we can all look forward to a country where exposure to the health dangers of second hand smoke will be dramatically curtailed. The new measures will save lives and prevent diseases caused by second-hand smoke which in turn will hopefully reduce the current unnecessary deaths of 400 non-smokers each year in Wales.

"All business will be provided will full guidance about the smoking ban this month and information will also be sent to every household in Wales early in March. Many businesses across Wales have already experienced the benefits of going smoke-free while many others are taking the necessary steps to conform to the regulations outlined within the ban. I am also pleased to see a number of businesses have signed up for our 'Try It' campaign which starts on Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup> as part of their preparations. This campaign is a real opportunity for businesses to give a smoke free environment a go – be it for a day, a week or permanently should they decide to do so.

"Consumers across Wales also need to prepare for the ban. Having the visual reminder of 60 days to go until lighting up becomes a thing of the past in enclosed public places will hopefully provide the impetus to plan ahead."

#### **ENDS**

For more information please contact Rhodri Ellis Owen or Lleucu Cooke at Cambrensis Communications on 029 20 257075. More information on the smoking ban is available at [www.smokingbanwales.co.uk](http://www.smokingbanwales.co.uk).