

Advice for employers to go smoke free

Are employers required to provide smoking breaks or outside smoking areas?

- No. By law, employers must give staff an uninterrupted rest break of 20 minutes when their daily working time is more than six hours but smokers are not entitled to additional smoking breaks. Staff can, of course, smoke during their rest period, if they choose, but they will not be able to smoke in an enclosed or partially-enclosed area.
- There is no requirement to provide a smoking shelter. Employers must decide whether or not to permit smoking elsewhere on the premises e.g. in open car parks or the grounds. The places where smoking is allowed should be indicated in the company smoking policy. The TUC has published guidance on negotiating smokefree workplaces.
- See www.smokefreeaction.org.uk

What help can employers offer to staff who want to stop smoking?

- The NHS provides a wide range of excellent, free and easily accessible support for smokers including local NHS stop smoking services and the NHS smoking helpline.
- Nicotine Replacement Therapy is available from GP on prescription.
- To find out more about the NHS smoking helpline, go to www.givingupsmoking.co.uk or their number 0800 169 0169.

What help is available for business to go smokefree?

- The Government has launched an information line for people who have questions about the upcoming smoking legislation. The Smoke Free England information line is 0800 169 1697.