

國際 > 國際要聞

英室內公共場所07年禁煙

【明報專訊】正當香港政府建議室內全面禁煙而惹來娛樂場所反對之際，英國周二通過室內公共場所禁煙法案，酒吧、俱樂部及室內公眾地方一律禁煙，2007年中開始執行。酒吧業界歡迎新法，但擔心會有酒吧倒閉，導致失業。

禁煙議案在英國經連月爭議後，周二以出乎意料的大比數384對184票通過。投贊成票的衛生大臣賀韻芝說：「(通過議案)對公眾健康來說是歷史性的一天，可拯救千計人的性命。」政府預料，實施禁煙後10年，會有60萬人戒煙。

英格蘭及威爾士約有2萬所私人俱樂部及5.3萬間酒吧，禁煙法實施後，任何人在受管制範圍內吸煙，會被罰款675至2700港元。而有關場所不能阻止人們吸煙，則面臨罰款3.8萬港元。

英國癌症研究中心主管馬卡姆說：「這是自50年前發現吸煙引致肺癌以來，公共衛生最重要的發展。今天的表決保障了千計工人的性命。」

英國啤酒及酒館協會對禁煙法案表示歡迎，稱可向顧客提供「公平的玩樂場地」。但發言人黑斯廷斯擔心「百計酒吧會倒閉，有人會失業」。

路透社/法新社/英國廣播公司



英國通過室內公共場所禁煙法案後，倫敦牛津街一間酒吧標明「不准吸煙」。(法新社)

放大

| 國家/地區 | 實施日期 | 範圍 |
|-------|---------|----------------------------------|
| 意大利 | 2005-01 | 所有室內的公眾地方 |
| 古巴 | 2005-02 | 辦公室、商店、戲院、巴士、的士、學校、體育館等，有字牌的公眾地方 |
| 孟加拉 | 2005-03 | 學校、辦公室、圖書館、醫院、機場 |
| 哥倫比亞 | 2005-10 | 公眾場所及辦公室 |
| 印尼 | 2006-02 | 公眾場所 |
| 俄羅斯 | 2006-03 | 公眾場所 |
| 西班牙 | 2007年中 | 酒吧及俱樂部 |
| 新加坡 | 1970 | 戲院 |

路透社

放大

英國嚴例禁烟

烟民有難 英國國會通過一項具有歷史意義的禁止吸烟法案，英格蘭的室內公共場所包括酒吧和辦公室等將全面禁烟，新法例於明年夏季起生效。英國衛生大臣表示，法例將可挽救數以萬計人的性命，政府預計約有六十萬人會因此法案而戒烟。

下議院周二以三百八十四票對一百八十四票，大比數通過英格蘭室內公共場所全面禁烟法案。首相貝理雅、財相白高敦及衛生大臣賀韻芝等都投贊成票。新法例規定，英格蘭的酒吧、私人俱樂部、餐廳、戲院、商場、辦公室及公共交通設施等室內公共場所都全面禁烟，違例者會被罰款二千五百鎊（約三萬三千七百五十港元）。新法例在上議院獲確認後將於明年夏季正式生效。

貝理雅投贊成票

法案是三項禁烟建議中最嚴厲的一項。其餘兩項比較寬鬆的建議包括允許在私人俱樂部及不提供食物的酒吧吸烟；或只允許在私人俱樂部吸烟。執政工黨曾在去年的競選宣言中承諾只會支持部分禁烟，但現在礙於議員壓力，貝理雅惟有投票贊成全面禁烟。貝理雅投票後，馬上受到黨內一些人批評他改變主意，反對黨保守黨亦指摘他與賀韻芝在此問題上轉軫。

反吸烟組織、健康專家、癌症慈善團體等贊成通過禁烟法案，認為是公共衛生的躍進。但吸

烟者權利組織及烟草公司則猛烈批評，表示剝奪了公民的選擇權利。

六十萬人將戒烟

英國烟民眾多，每四名成年人中便有一人吸烟，新法例實施後，室內公共場所的面貌將煥然一新，不會再見到烟霧瀰漫情景。賀韻芝表示，這項法案對公共健康具有歷史意義，將可挽救成千上萬人的性命。

英國北愛爾蘭已通過有關禁烟法例，將於○七年四月實施，蘇格蘭下月起亦禁止在室內公共場所吸烟，而威爾斯實施的《健康法》亦賦予當地政府有權自行決定是否禁烟。去年進行的一項調查顯示，七成以上英國人贊成禁烟。

據悉，英國每年有十萬人以上因吸烟死亡，而每天約有三十人死於二手烟。政府就預計，約有六十萬人會因上述法案通過而戒烟。英國在八○年率先要求烟草商需在烟包上印上警告字句及課以重稅。英國二十支裝香烟現時平均每包售五鎊（約六十七港元）。 ■本報綜合報道

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MPs pass smoking ban for English pubs and clubs

Tue Feb 14, 2006 9:44 PM GMT

By Kate Holton

LONDON (Reuters) - The House of Commons voted by a huge margin on Tuesday to ban smoking in every pub, club and indoor public space in England, adding it to the growing list of countries taking a tough stand against smoking.

The bill, passed by 384 votes to 184, followed months of heated debate that divided the Labour government and incensed health groups.

Jubilant anti-smoking campaigners welcomed the decision, saying a ban would save thousands of lives, while critics condemned the government for interfering and denying people choice.

The law will now pass to the unelected upper House of Lords, where it is also expected to pass. If so, it will become law by mid-2007.

Although British scientists were the first to document the health risks of smoking, such as lung cancer, Britain has been slow to stop people smoking in public places.

Ireland banned smoking in restaurants, pubs and workplaces in 2004, and six countries imposed bans on smoking of varying severity in 2005.

"This is the most important advance in public health since Sir Richard Doll identified that smoking causes lung cancer 50 years ago," Alex Markham, head of Cancer Research UK, said in a statement. "Today's vote will protect thousands of workers and save many lives."

The pro-smoking lobbying group Forest condemned the ban.

"We think it is totally unnecessary and completely illiberal. Unfortunately, members of parliament got it into their heads that because Ireland had chosen an utterly draconian ban, it was inevitable it should happen over here."

PARTIAL BAN

The government initially proposed a partial ban, exempting private clubs and pubs which do not serve food. But many Labour supporters said this was not tough enough, prompting open arguments between members of the cabinet.

Labour unions and the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) joined forces to call for a complete ban. The BBPA said a partial ban would put non-smoking pubs at an unfair disadvantage compared with those where smoking was permitted.

A survey last year showed 72 percent of Britons wanted a sweeping ban on smoking, covering all workplaces, restaurants and bars.

The government, fearing defeat if it insisted on a partial ban, said it would allow a free vote, one in which parliamentarians do not have to follow party orders. A spokeswoman for Prime Minister Tony Blair said he had voted for the total ban.

A partial ban would have put England at odds with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales which have banned smoking in all indoor public places or have announced plans to do so.

There are some 20,000 private clubs and 53,000 pubs in England and Wales, according to the BBPA. Any premises which ignore the ban will face a fine of up to 2,500 pounds.

The few exemptions to the new law will include prisons, long stay care facilities and hotel bedrooms.

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14/02/06 - News section

Smoking ban vote 'a life-saver'

MPs have voted by a huge majority for a complete ban on smoking in pubs and clubs - a move hailed as the biggest life-saver for half a century.

The decision to overturn a planned exemption for certain bars was immediately feted as a leap forward by health campaigners and anti-smoking groups.

But the Government faced accusations of presiding over a "shambles" as Prime Minister Tony Blair and Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt effectively voted against their own policy.

Although Labour MPs were given a "free" vote to avert a damaging defeat, the Prime Minister came under fire for his "handbrake turn" over the ban.

It also emerged that the ban will be backed up with far heavier fines than originally proposed for licensees who allow smokers to light up.

They could now be hit for up to £2,500 rather than £200 - but individuals who flout the prohibition, due to come into force in the summer of 2007, will still face a £50 spot fine.

In the Commons votes, MPs first ended an exemption for pubs not serving food by 453 votes to 125, majority 328, and then to extend the ban to private clubs by 384 votes to 184, majority 200.

Ms Hewitt - who had argued for the partial ban promised in Labour's manifesto as she steered the Health Bill through the Commons - said the harder measure was "a huge step for people's health".

Cancer Research UK said the ban represented the biggest step forward in public health for half a century and Action on Smoking and Health said it was "absolutely delighted".

Ben Youdan, chief executive of charity No Smoking Day, said: "Not since the founding of the NHS has a single piece of legislation had the potential to save so many lives."

Find this story at http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=377147&in_page_id=1770

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MPs vote for blanket smoking ban next year

- Majority of 200 rejects private clubs compromise
- Officials proclaim victory for better public health

Michael White, political editor
Wednesday February 15, 2006

Guardian

A total ban on smoking inside offices, pubs, restaurants and "virtually every enclosed public place and workplace" throughout England will come into force in the summer of 2007 after a resounding cross-party majority of MPs yesterday rejected last minute compromises designed to exempt some pubs and private clubs.

Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and the health secretary Patricia Hewitt went with the flow of expert, public and backbench opinion, changed their positions during the day and voted to abandon Labour's manifesto position of less than a year ago.

In the crucial free vote, with neither side certain which would prevail, Ms Hewitt's latest compromise was rejected by 384 votes to 184. The 200-vote majority did not include the defence secretary, John Reid.

Health officials proclaimed the vote a historic victory, to be compared with the 1948 NHS Act or the clean air legislation which ended city smog in the 50s. But some MPs predict a backlash among voters who cherish their right to drink and smoke in working men's clubs and the grand private clubs of Pall Mall.

With smoke-free workplaces becoming "the norm", Ms Hewitt told MPs: "Over time we estimate an additional 600,000 people will give up smoking as a result of this law and millions more will be protected from second hand smoke."

That should cut the 85,000 smoking related deaths a year, pro-ban MPs believe. Scotland and Northern Ireland have already enacted public bans and the Welsh assembly has agreed in principle. Ministers also announced an increase in fines, from a maximum £200 to £1,000 for not displaying ban signs, and from £200 to £2,500 for not enforcing the ban.

Yesterday's votes came after a zealous Commons debate on the government's health bill, which even saw Liberal Democrat leadership candidates Sir Menzies Campbell and Simon Hughes defying their manifesto commitment to a full ban.

Both sides in the dispute - 40 years after Harold Wilson's Labour government first promised such a ban - squabbled to the very end over the right line to draw between protecting public health and individual liberty. Labour's Steve Pound, a self-styled "ashtray monitor" since primary school, made a witty appeal for tolerance and realism - but in vain. Last night MPs first voted 453 to 125 to replace the 2005 manifesto compromise, fashioned by Ms Hewitt's predecessor, Mr Reid, and backed by the then-cabinet. It would have exempted pubs which sell cooked food from the proposed ban, a halfway house intended to allow both choice and time to build consensus.

The Reid formula was denounced as unworkable and wrong by health professionals and trade unions who warned of the dangers of passive smoking for other customers and employees, not least pub staff. Opinion polls have moved their way.

Last night Mr Reid's no vote was joined by cabinet colleagues John Prescott, Tessa Jowell, Alan Johnson, Ruth Kelly and John Hutton, plus 44 other Labour MPs, many from traditional industrial towns with clubs that will be affected or even put out of business. Most Tory MPs including the past three leaders voted no, though David Cameron was absent as his wife gave birth. Eight Lib Dems also voted no.

A majority of MPs, including Ms Hewitt's Tory shadow, Andrew Lansley - who has also changed his position since 2005 - endorsed a replacement clause to confirm ministerial powers to exempt private and residential homes, hotel rooms, prisons and hostels. It would also have allowed Ms Hewitt to exempt 18,500 private clubs, owned by their members and run on a non-profit basis, and therefore just as entitled to "make their own decisions as [people] in their own homes", she argued during the bill's second reading debate in November.

Yesterday she made the clubs' case again, but defied Conservative taunts that her "voice and vote" in debate should go the same way, admitting she had an open mind. Colleagues told her a clubs exemption would be unfair to pubs.



15 February 2006 14:06

MPs outlaw smoking in all pubs and clubs

By Colin Brown and Ben Russell

Published: 15 February 2006

Smoking will be outlawed in 124,000 pubs and clubs across England from next summer, after MPs voted overwhelmingly to ban lighting up in all enclosed public places.

Tony Blair and 12 of his Cabinet colleagues were accused of a U-turn after abandoning Labour's manifesto commitment.

In a historic free vote, MPs threw out an "unworkable" compromise on which Tony Blair fought the general election, namely, the commitment to allow smoking to continue in pubs that do not serve food.

Slapping down that compromise, the MPs voted for all pubs to be included in the ban, by 453 votes to 125 a majority of 328.

They then decisively threw out a last-minute proposal to exempt private members' clubs by 384 to 184 a majority of 200 voting again for a complete ban.

The vote, warmly welcomed by health groups, brings England into line with Northern Ireland and Scotland. Wales will have its own vote on the issue.

Patricia Hewitt, the Health Secretary, was accused of a U-turn after backing a total ban just hours after hinting that she would support the exemption of private clubs.

Gordon Brown, Charles Clarke, Peter Hain, Ian McCartney, Margaret Beckett and David Miliband were among the Cabinet ministers voting for a full ban, as did Tony Blair.

But six of their colleagues, including John Reid, John Prescott, John Hutton, Tessa Jowell and Ruth Kelly, backed a compromise aimed at allowing smoking to continue in not-for-profit clubs such as working mens' clubs and the Royal British Legion.

The vote means an end to the "pint and fag" culture of the local pub and the smoke-filled rooms of 18,000 private members' clubs.

Ministers also announced a sharp rise in fines for failing to enforce the ban. Landlords who allow smoking will face a £2,500 fine, up from £200 but individuals who flout the ban will still face a £50 spot fine.

Spot fines of £200 will also be introduced for failing to display no-smoking signs, with the possible penalty, if the issue goes to court, increasing to £1,000.

The smoking room of the House of Commons could be one of the few places to be unaffected by the ban, because the Royal Palace of Westminster is not directly covered by legislation. However, some MPs were already predicting the ban will be extended to their favourite retreat.

Fiona Castle, the widow of the entertainer Roy Castle, lobbied for a total smoking ban a few hours before the MPs took part in six separate votes on the options. She urged them to vote against excluding private members' clubs, telling MPs that her late husband, a non-smoker, had died from a rare form of lung cancer associated with passive smoking in clubs when he was an entertainer.

Her MP, Louise Ellman, the Labour member for Liverpool Riverside, said: "The vote will be a lasting memorial to Roy Castle. His death made Fiona determined to do something about this, and the Roy Castle Cancer Foundation was set up in my constituency as a result."

But in an impassioned debate, the Health Secretary was accused by Tories of presiding over a "shambles" on the ban. Andrew Lansley, the shadow Health Secretary, mocked the Government for a succession of U-turns over the legislation. He said: "We now have the humiliation of the Secretary of State voting against her own legislation. Never before has a government minister brought forward a measure and voted against it in this way."

The Health Bill, introduced by Ms Hewitt last year, has been dogged by Cabinet splits and insurrection in the Labour ranks.

Labour MPs were finally granted a free vote after a back-bench insurrection over the compromise plans.

Last night's vote was welcomed by unions, publicans and health campaigners.

Professor Alex Markham, chief executive of Cancer Research UK, said: "We're delighted that the smoke-free law will give all workers, including those in pubs and private members' clubs, equal protection from the life-threatening effects of second-hand smoke."

Peter Hollins, director general of the British Heart Foundation, welcomed the vote as "a landmark victory for the public health of this country, which will save the lives of many people across the UK".

Mark Hastings, director of communications at the British Beer and Pub Association, said: "We are pleased that MPs have ensured a level playing field for all, with no exemption

<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/politics/article345500.ece>

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for private members' clubs."

Publicans had been worried that private clubs would have gained an advantage by allowing smoking while pubs would have had to enforce the ban.

Not everyone welcomed the development. Simon Clark, director of smoking support group Forest, said last night: "A total ban is disproportionate to the problems of second-hand smoking. Unfortunately, MPs have been seduced by an unprecedented campaign of propaganda about the effects of passive smoking for which the evidence is inconclusive."

How prohibition laws have spread across the British Isles

Scotland

The ban: Comes into force at 6am on 26 March.

Covers: Enclosed locations that are used by the public, such as work places, clubs or places of entertainment, health and care services.

Exemptions: Private residential homes or designated rooms in care homes, hospitals, prisons, hotels, offshore installations and private vehicles.

Compliance: Smokers and publicans are concerned that the ban will infringe their human right to smoke, cause the closure of businesses and possibly force people to smoke at home, increasing the danger to children. It is hoped the new law will prevent more than 13,000 deaths a year from smoking related diseases.

Wales

The ban: Likely to be a strict ban in public places under plans being prepared by the Welsh Assembly by 2007.

Covers: Similar to Scotland with no-smoking premises defined as enclosed locations that are used by the public. Last year the Welsh Assembly announced that all of its estates would be smoke-free.

Exemptions: To be decided.

Compliance: Still to be seen, but there appears to be a good degree of public support for an outright ban.

Northern Ireland

The ban: Comes into effect in April next year.

Covers: All enclosed places, including pubs, restaurants and hotels. Smoking is already banned in government offices. A decision on prisons and psychiatric institutions has yet to be taken.

Exceptions: To be decided.

Compliance: Yet to be seen, but a public consultation in March last year found that more than 91 per cent of respondents were in favour of comprehensive smoke-free legislation.

Ireland

The ban: Tough anti-smoking legislation was imposed in March 2004.

Covers: Smoking in pubs, restaurants and other enclosed workplaces including trucks and company vehicles.

Exemptions: Prisons, nursing homes and psychiatric hospitals are exempt from legislation. However, all employers (even those who are exempt) are still free to enforce the legislation if they wish to.

Compliance: Controversial at the start, but smoke-free pubs and workplaces have quickly come to be regarded as the norm and are seen as a major success.

Paul Kelbie

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English ban on smoking follows Scots example

CATHERINE MacLEOD, UK Political Editor

February 15 2006

Smoking in pubs and private clubs will be outlawed south of the border from summer next year after MPs last night voted to follow Scotland's example.

Following a chaotic debate in the House of Commons, anti-smoking MPs overwhelmingly threw out proposed exemptions for licensed premises serving food and private clubs in England.

Patricia Hewitt, the health secretary, performed a dramatic U-turn to back a blanket ban as the Health Bill was passed by 200 votes – 384 to 184.

However, the strict rules will be introduced more than a year after a similar law comes into effect in Scotland on March 26.

Tony Blair, who smoked until he married Cherie in 1980, voted for the full ban.

The majority of Scottish MPs who voted, including Gordon Brown, the chancellor, also supported the tough measures. Although they wanted to outlaw smoking in public places, many also believed it was sensible to create a level playing field throughout the UK.

The prime minister decided MPs would be allowed a free vote before Christmas when he realised so many would not be bound by party discipline on such a controversial issue.

Mr Blair returned to the Commons yesterday after missing a critical vote on identity cards on Monday night.

The vote on smoking came after months of bitter wrangling behind the scenes. Ms Hewitt had always favoured a ban but had met ferocious resistance from John Reid, the former health secretary, who insisted the government should stick to its manifesto commitment to allow exemptions in pubs and bars serving food as well as private clubs.

Andrew Lansley, the shadow home secretary, struggled to make a coherent argument against the blanket ban. Instead he concentrated on the inadequacies of the legislation and described Ms Hewitt's climbdown as a "humiliation".

Leading the charge against any exemption, Kevin Barron, the Labour chairman of the health select committee, told MPs the committee had concluded that a full ban was the only effective means of protecting public health. "The idea that club members should be able to vote to continue to expose workers to such risks I find unacceptable. I deeply regret this bill is seen to be a measure of public opinion and not a measure of protecting people in the workplace."

He also said Ms Hewitt's decision to compare a private members' club as comparable to a private home was "farfical".

Steve Webb, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman, welcomed the result. A minority of the LibDems had opposed an all-out ban but he said: "This legislation is good news for tens of thousands of bar staff. Any distinctions according to whether or not food was served would have been absurd. It would have been equally absurd to make distinctions according to whether the smoker was a member of a club."

Caroline Flint, the public health minister, tabled the successful amendment to include private members' clubs in the ban. In another twist, she announced there would be a massive increase in the fines for failing to stop people smoking in banned areas to £2500 – more than 10 times the original proposed £200 fine.

It is understood the rise followed a consultation which uncovered fears that businesses might be prepared to pay lower fines to keep custom.

Ms Hewitt claimed the bill would save thousands of lives a year, adding: "Over time, we estimate an additional 600,000 people will give up smoking as a result of this law and millions more will be protected from second-hand smoke."

Her view was echoed by Dr Vivienne Nathanson, head of ethics and science at the British Medical Association. "Every day around 30 people die in the UK as a result of second-hand smoke," she said. "Today's vote is the beginning of the end to these frightening statistics."

SNP MPs did not vote because the legislation applied to England only.

Mr Blair also came under attack for voting in defiance of Labour's general election manifesto pledge for a partial smoking ban.

Iain Duncan Smith, former Tory leader, said: "It is bizarre the government can start off with a manifesto commitment and promptly end up voting against their own proposals."

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