



Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China
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13 January 2017

Re: Graphic Tobacco Pack Warnings in Hong Kong

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh supports the Hong Kong government proposal to upgrade the current graphic pack warnings, as outlined below.

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh is an independent clinical standard-setting body and professional membership organisation, which aims to improve and maintain the quality of patient care. Founded in 1681, we support and educate doctors in the hospital sector throughout Scotland and the world with over 12,000 Fellows and Members in 91 countries, covering 30 medical specialties.

Throughout our long history, the College has championed patients' interests and has a strong tradition of influencing public health, most notably in relation to smoking and alcohol.

While the number of cigarette smokers is falling, people still die every day of tobacco-related illnesses. The College set up Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) Scotland in 1973, with whom we campaigned for a ban on smoking in public places and the implementation of graphic pack warnings, as well as a complete UK ban on tobacco sponsorship and advertising and a rise in the minimum age of sale from 16 to 18.

Today we continue this work as a member of the Scottish Coalition on Tobacco and supporter of Scotland's Charter for a Tobacco-Free Generation.

I AGREE that my submission be made available to the media and the public and be uploaded onto the Legislative Council website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derek Bell".

Professor Derek Bell
President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Briefing paper from the government to Legco:
LC Paper No. CB(2)386/16-17(05)

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL

The Proposal

3. At present, the Smoking (Public Health) (Notices) Order (Cap. 371B) stipulates that the health warning should cover at least 50% of the two largest surfaces of the packet or retail container of cigarette, cigar, pipe tobacco and cigarette tobacco in accordance with the prescribed forms and pictures. The existing batch of health warning pictures has been in use since 2007. The Government now proposes to change the prescribed forms of health warnings and the indication of tar and nicotine yields on the packet and retail container of cigarette and relevant tobacco products.

4. We propose to amend the prescribed forms (including specifications) of the health warnings, the size and number of the health warnings and messages for the packet or retail container of cigarettes and tobacco products under the Smoking (Public Health) (Notices) Order as follows –
 - (a) the area of the graphic health warning shall be of a size that covers at least 85% of two largest surfaces of the packet or the retail container;
 - (b) the number of forms of health warning will increase from six to twelve;
 - (c) the following health warning message is to be included in the existing statement “HKSAR GOVERNMENT WARNING” / “香港特區政府忠告市民” –
“QUIT SMOKING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS” /
“請為你的下一代戒煙”; and
“QUITLINE: 1833 183” / “戒煙熱線：1833 183”;
 - (d) the indication of tar and nicotine yields should be printed on a side adjacent to a typical flip-top lid of a cigarette packet, excluding the portion which forms part of the lid and the two largest surfaces, presented in a conspicuous place of such side of the packet.