

This response was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on *Public Health: ethical issues* between May and September 2006. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

Anon 1

QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

Question 1 The definition of public health

ANSWER:

Yes

Question 2 Factors that influence public health

ANSWER:

Question 4 Control of infectious disease

ANSWER:

1. The greater public good would justify such measures.

Question 6 Smoking

ANSWER:

1, Income from taxation is a disincentive to the government. Removing packs of 10 cigarettes from sale will impact on young smokers and those in lower socio-economic groups. 2. Tobacco companies are knowingly profiting from the misery they peddle. They could reduce the nicotine quantity in cigarettes and thereby reduce their addictiveness. They should be prosecuted for damaging health. 3. Given the tax contributions that smokers make to the country, it would be unreasonable to ask for greater contributions; however they should not be entitled to higher resources. It is reasonable to withhold treatment where a continuation of smoking would reduce its chances of success or nullify the benefits. Given the waiting lists and the lack of donor, transplant surgery for smokers should be seriously evaluated and only offered where the patient is prepared to quit. It would not be unreasonable to ask those of us (self included) who participate in dangerous sports to take out adequate insurance provision to cover treatment costs. 4. The states right to prevent smoking derives largely from the greater public good. The rights of non-smokers not to inhale toxic smoke should override any liberties under human rights of the smoker to smoke. The response to health scares such as Sudan 1 in 2005 makes a mockery of tobacco sales. 66 carcinogenic chemicals freely on sale! Banning the sale completely would be a brave move by any government but one that would have far reaching public health benefits. Any measures that could be taken by the state to prevent children and teenagers from smoking would be more than reasonable. However, research has shown that one of the biggest factors in them starting is the perception of smoking as 'adult' and that a reduction in role models smoking is what is needed.