

Smoking Policy

Summary

The University of Bristol's smoking policy promotes a healthy, safe, and smoke-free environment by prohibiting smoking and electronic cigarettes on University property, supporting legal compliance and protecting staff, students, and visitors.

Control information:	Control detail:
Owner	Director of Health and Safety, Safety and Health Services
Author	Health and Safety Advisor, Safety and Health Services
Sponsor	Director of Health and Safety, Safety and Health Services
Consulted	Director of Health and Safety, Safety and Health Services
Approved by	Director of Health and Safety
Responsible area	Safety and Health Services
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Date of next full review	22 May 2027
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Reporting requirements	None
Applicable statutory, legal or best practice requirements	Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 , Health Act 2006 ,

	The Smoke-free (Exemptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007 , Smoke-free (Signs) Regulations 2007 ,
Keywords	Smoking, Health, Safety, Smoke-free, Cigarettes, Electronic cigarettes
Related information	Action on Smoking and Health , NHS Smokefree

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1. Updates to this policy

- 1.1. This policy has been updated to align to the new University of Bristol policy template.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. The University of Bristol has duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 to ensure the health, safety and welfare of its employees and make similar provision for non-employees including students and visitors who may be affected by the University's activities. The smoking policy is designed to secure a healthy and safe working environment in compliance with the Health Act 2006. This is in the context that medical evidence continues to reinforce the link between inhalation of smoke both directly or by passive smoking and serious illness or the exacerbation of pre-existing health problems.

3. Scope

- 3.1. This smoking policy is designed to secure a non-smoking healthy and safe environment for everyone who works, studies, visits or has business at the University of Bristol and to ensure compliance with the Smoke-free (Exceptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007.
- 3.2. The policy applies to all University staff and students as well as to visitors, contractors and sub-contractors whilst on University owned and controlled property.

4. Definitions

- 4.1. **Artistic integrity:** The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles in artistic performances.
- 4.2. **ASH (Action on Smoking and Health):** A public health charity working to eliminate the harm caused by tobacco.
- 4.3. **Curtilage:** The area immediately surrounding a building, including any closely associated buildings and structures.
- 4.4. **Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974:** UK legislation aimed at ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of employees at work.

- 4.5. **Occupational Health Service:** A service providing health advice and support to employees in the workplace.
- 4.6. **Smoke-free (Signs) Regulations 2007:** Regulations requiring no-smoking signs to be displayed in smoke-free premises.
- 4.7. **Substantially enclosed:** A space with a roof and walls that enclose more than 50% of its perimeter.

5. Responsibilities

- 5.1. **Contractors and Sub-contractors:** Comply with the smoking policy while working on University-owned or controlled property.
- 5.2. **Event Organisers:** Ensure that all University events comply with this policy and current legislation by providing a smoke-free environment. The regulations apply to enclosed or substantially enclosed premises so temporary structures such as marquees must also be smoke-free.
- 5.3. **Facilities Managers:** Provide advice on signage and ensure no-smoking signs are displayed prominently.
- 5.4. **Heads of School/Services:** Ensure no-smoking signs are displayed in University vehicles and manage compliance within their departments.
- 5.5. **Health Safety and Health Services:** Assist with compliance for research projects involving smoking and ensure activities meet legal requirements.
- 5.6. **Staff:** Ensure compliance with the smoking policy and promote a smoke-free environment within their respective areas.
- 5.7. **Students:** Adhere to the smoking policy and respect the rights of others to enjoy a smoke-free environment.
- 5.8. **Visitors:** Follow the smoking policy while on University property and respect the smoke-free zones.

6. Policy

- 6.1. The University of Bristol's smoking policy is designed to secure a non-smoking, healthy, and safe environment for everyone who works, studies, visits, or has

business at the university. It ensures compliance with the [Smoke-free \(Exceptions and Vehicles\) Regulations 2007](#) and the [Health Act 2006](#).

7. Application of the policy

- 7.1. The policy is applied through several key actions:

Prohibition of smoking

- 7.2. Smoking is not allowed in any university building, including personal offices.
- 7.3. The ban extends to areas immediately outside buildings and windows where smoke could cause a nuisance.
- 7.4. All university vehicles, including those hired or leased for university business, are designated as non-smoking.

Event Compliance

- 7.5. Event organisers must ensure that all university events comply with the smoking policy and current legislation by providing a smoke-free environment.
- 7.6. Temporary structures such as marquees must also be smoke-free.

Electronic Cigarettes

- 7.7. The use of electronic cigarettes is prohibited wherever smoking is banned to avoid confusion and ensure the effectiveness of the policy.

8. Signage

- 8.1. Signage will be clearly displayed at the entrances to and within University premises that is compliant with the [Smoke-free \(Signs\) Regulations 2007](#). Facilities Managers can provide advice regarding signage. Heads of School/Services responsible for the management of University vehicles must ensure that no-smoking signs are displayed in a prominent position in each compartment.

Research and testing facilities

- 8.2. Specific research projects may designate certain rooms for smoking if the research or tests are specified in Regulation 9 (2) of [The Smoke-free \(Exemptions](#)

[and Vehicles\) Regulations 2007](#). Safety and Health Services can help to ensure that any proposed activities comply with the legislation.

Performers

- 8.3. The [Smoke-free \(Exception and Vehicles\) Regulations 2007](#) states that smoking is permitted during a performance where artistic integrity dictates. This will be subject to a risk assessment and the exemption does not apply to rehearsals.

9. Enforcement of the Policy

- 9.1. The enforcement of this policy involves several key steps:

University Disciplinary Procedures

- 9.2. If a member of staff or a student fails to comply with the smoking policy, the university's disciplinary procedures will be followed. This ensures that any breaches are addressed appropriately and consistently.

Local Management

- 9.3. Compliance with the legislation and the university's smoking policy must be managed on a local basis. This means that individual departments, schools, and services are responsible for ensuring that the policy is adhered to within their areas.

Local Council Enforcement

- 9.4. Local Councils are responsible for enforcing the smoke-free legislation. If someone does not comply with the smoke-free law, they will be committing a criminal offense and may be liable to a fixed penalty fine and possible criminal prosecution.

10. Provision for smokers

Students' Health Service

- 10.1. Students can receive assistance from the Students' Health Service, which provides resources and support for quitting smoking.

National Services

- 10.2. Local NHS Stop Smoking Services: Smokers can call 0800 022 4332 or visit [NHS Smokefree](#) for advice and information.
- 10.3. ASH (Action on Smoking and Health): Visit [ASH](#) for resources and support.
- 10.4. Local GP Practices, Pharmacies, or Hospitals: These healthcare providers can offer additional support and resources for quitting smoking.