



SMOKE-FREE POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy outlines our position as a smoke-free place of work.

POLICY

Our Union is smoke-free. Everyone who works at or uses the Union has the right to be in a smoke-free environment, so we don't allow smoking inside our buildings or facilities, at any of our events or in any of our vehicles.

We're required by law to provide a healthy and safe workplace under the terms of the 2006 Health Act. Smoking, both direct and passive, is directly linked with serious illness and health problems. Many people also find it intrusive and unpleasant. We want to protect everyone's health, safety and wellbeing, and to provide a comfortable working environment. No-smoking signs are displayed at entrances to remind people of this.

To be clear, this applies to everyone including staff, students, visitors and contractors. The policy covers cigarettes (tobacco or herbal), cigars, pipes, e-cigarettes and anything similar.

E-cigarettes are included because, although they release vapour rather than tobacco smoke, the emissions can contain potential toxins and their long term-effects are unknown. E-cigarettes also can appear to 'normalise' smoking, which is something we'd like to discourage for health reasons.

Smoking is permitted outside Union buildings and facilities during normal breaks, but away from doors or windows where smoke could enter and affect people. Cigarette butts should be disposed of in a safe, tidy and accountable way.

Help and support is available to smokers who'd like to stop. Contact the New Leaf Nottinghamshire Service on 0800 389 7712 or 01623 848868.

Alternatively, the following services are available:

- NHS Stop Smoking www.nhs.uk/livewell/smoking
- www.gosmokefree.co.uk
- Local GP or pharmacy

We want people to understand and respect this policy because it's the right thing for everyone. However, people who smoke where they've been requested not to will be subject to our disciplinary procedure. It's also fair to point out that it's a criminal offence not to comply with the smoke-free ruling, and anyone who doesn't comply could be fined or prosecuted.