

Professor John Moxham
Chair
Action on Smoking and Health
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By email to: enquiries@ash.org.uk

25 April 2014

Dear John

Re: Endorsing the NHS Statement of Support for Tobacco Control

Thank you for your letter of 7 April 2014 seeking my endorsement on behalf of NHS England for the NHS Statement of Support for Tobacco Control. I am pleased to give our endorsement.

Whilst there has been good progress in reducing the number of people smoking across the UK over past years, smoking remains the single largest risk factor for premature mortality in the UK and it is a significant contributory factor to premature mortality from cancer, cardiovascular disease and respiratory disease, all of which are priorities for the NHS. As you point out in your letter, it also makes a significant contribution to inequalities in health outcomes between different groups in our communities. So we are highly motivated to play our part in making further progress to cut smoking.

Yours sincerely



Simon Stevens
CEO, NHS England