

Solid Fuels Regulation Consultation,
Air Quality Division,
Department of the Environment, Climate Communications
Newtown Road,
Wexford,
Y35AP90

2nd April 2021

Re: Public consultation process on the development of a new solid fuel regulation for Ireland.

To whom it may concern,

I write to you in my capacity as chair of the sustainability committee of the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland and on behalf of the college in relation to the public consultation process on the development of a new solid fuel regulation for Ireland.

The College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland is the professional body that supports the training and continuing education of our largest hospital specialty - Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care and Pain Medicine. As a key stakeholder in the health of the population we wish to ensure that our views are incorporated into the proposed new more extensive regulatory system for solid fuel in this country.

There is significant evidence of considerable ill health and mortality relating to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases caused-by or worsened-by air pollution. Negative effects of air pollution on health outcomes such as fertility, dementia and mental health are increasingly of concern. Air pollution kills plants and animals that make up the complex web of life upon which we depend for our continued existence. We believe that the Irish government cannot ignore localised high levels of particulate matter from domestically used solid fuel as it is a threat to human and environmental health.

Therefore the position of the College of Anaesthesiologists on the development of new solid fuel regulation is as follows:



CAI
SALUS DUM VIGILAMUS

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- (1) We support a broadening of the current regulations to a more nationally uniform and homogenous approach which will enable all of the population to enjoy the benefits of potentially improved air quality.
- (2) The college encourages a refinement of the regulation of solid fuels in a manner that will improve the heat-yield to pollutant ratio per kilogram of fuel burned. *i.e.* In general terms we support a transition to 'less smoky' fuels.
- (3) Bogs are incredibly valuable ecosystems that are also highly effective carbon sinks. Burning bogs is not sustainable. We support a complete and rapid phasing-out of turf and peat as domestic fuel on urgent environmental and human health grounds.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the formulation of these regulations.

Is mise le meas,


College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland