restaurants, the obvious one being a decrease in passive smoking. However the ban has already been passed in the Republic of Ireland but it is too early to tell if any significant health benefits have occurred or will occur. Although it is impossible to get exact figures the estimated figures for the annual death toll in the UK vary between 1000 and 4500. It is also estimated that 17,000 children are admitted to hospital as a result of illness caused smoking. It is estimated that 2 million workers are routinely exposed to second hand smoke in the workplace in Northern Ireland. “Professor Konrad Jamrozik of Imperial College London has estimated that exposure to second hand smoke in the workplace causes around 617 premature deaths in the UK each year.” (http://www.ash.org.uk/html/factsheets/html/fact14.html).

The government has also put a lot of money into advertising against smoking such as TV and newspaper advertisements which show the damages smoking does to your body. Also now on all cigarette packaging in the UK there is a large label telling you of how smoking is bad for your health and others around you. In the ‘Investing For Health annual report 2003’ a 5 year tobacco action plan which is aimed at “preventing young people from starting to smoke, supporting smokers who wish to quit and protecting non-smokers from tobacco smoke” has been set up.

Smoking can also have major spiritual impacts. It may affect someone’s religion by leading to feelings of separation from God and feelings of being out of fellowship with Him. Its continued use may also lead to hesitancy to witness to others with addictions.

From looking at the aspects of health on smoking we can see that there are many risks involved, both to the smoker directly and to any member of the public passively. After my research I found no positive effects of smoking and vast numbers of negative effects which makes me ask the question why people still continue to smoke.