



Smokers can pay twice as much for life insurance

SMOKERS can pay twice as much for life insurance than their non-smoking counterparts, according to figures released by leading protection specialist Royal London. Experts at Royal London say they are flagging the cost comparisons now to further spur on the thousands of Irish people who are challenging themselves, as part of their new year's resolutions, to kick the nicotine habit for good.

Colette Houton, Underwriting and Claims Lead at Royal London explained: "January is a time when personal health goals come into sharp focus for many; indulging over Christmas and a fresh new year provide a natural starting point for a 'health-kick.' Each year, for thousands of people throughout the country, the goal is to give up smoking and not only is there a major health benefit in the offing, but potentially there is a large financial one too.

"As you might imagine smokers pay more in premiums for life insurance than non-smokers, due to the many damaging health effects of cigarettes, but people may not be aware of just how sizeable the difference can be between the premiums charged."

Recent cost analysis from Royal London reveals the stark difference in premiums paid by smokers and non-smokers that can accumulate over the term of a policy. For instance, a smoker turning 45 on their next birthday will pay more than €16,600 more in premiums than their non-smoking counterpart for €300,000 worth of Level Term Life Cover over a 25 year term. A smoker can expect to pay more than €63,900 more than a non-smoker during the course of a Specified Serious Illness policy for €300,000 over a 25 year term.

Commenting on the cost analysis, Colette said: "There is a massive difference in price when you consider how much the savings add up over the lifetime of the cover."