

Ian Fairweather  
Criminal Justice Directorate  
Scottish Government  
GW.14, St Andrews House  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
LicensingConsultations@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

SGF  
222 Queensferry Road  
Edinburgh  
EH3 8AX

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Dear Mr Fairweather,

**Response to Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 - Consultation on draft regulations setting out relevant offences and proposed form of statement of reasons**

I am grateful for the opportunity to respond to this consultation. I am responding on behalf of the Scottish Grocers' Federation (SGF) and can confirm that I am happy for the content of our response to be made available to the public. We would welcome any further contact from the Scottish Government in relation to our response.

**About SGF**

SGF is the campaigning voice of the Scottish convenience store sector and exists to promote responsible community retailing to industry, government and consumers. According to recent IGD research there are approximately 5,500 employing over 38,000 people and contributing with a turnover of nearly £3 billion.

**Relevant and Foreign Offences**

It is our view that the list of relevant offences contained within the consultation comprise are both comprehensive and reasonable. We do not propose that any offences should be omitted or added to this list however accept the right of Ministers to bring forward amendments at a later date.

**Proposed form of statement of reasons**

The proposed form is both clear and concise. Section 8 should be strengthened by inserting the word "Detailed" before "Reasons for decision". It is our view that this amendment would aid Licensing Boards in their efforts to provide applicants with a full explanation and as well as the rationale for their decisions.

Thank you once more for the opportunity to comment on these draft regulations and for your ongoing commitment to engage our sector as the Act is progressed towards implementation.

Yours sincerely,



John Drummond  
Chief Executive