

Consultation Questions  
Consultation on Alcohol Misuse

*Question 1: We invite views on our proposals to make regulations, under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005*

Absolutely not. These kind of measures mainly affect the vast majority of innocent, responsible people and will have almost no effect on "problem" drinkers. Such measures would only penalise the innocent.

*Question 2: We invite views on whether a*

Absolutely not. There is already far too much tax and duty on alcohol and once again it would penalise the innocent majority whilst

<p><b><i>minimum pricing scheme should be based on the following principles</i></b></p>	<p>having little or not effect on "problem" drinkers. Other considerations are that such measures may be against EU legislation and even against the legislation in this country.</p>
<p><b><i>Question 3: What particular information do you think parents and carers would find helpful to enable them to support their children to make positive choices about alcohol?</i></b></p>	<p>Telling the truth about alcohol and not sensationalising it's consumption would be a good start. The way that the term "binge drinking" is now supposed to mean "anything above the daily recommended maximum" is a prime example. Binge drinking means a heavy drinking session lasting at least a whole day and more normally more than one day. Misleading the public by taking this term out of context is all wrong. Get them to introduce children to alcohol at an early age, so that it not a big mystery. Explain the harsh realities of drinking too much in terms of being drunk and acting like a fool and hangovers. Give the impression that it is NOT big and clever to act like a moron. Instead, get them to subscribe to the principle that a man (or woman) should be able to handle their drink. If they can't handle it, don't drink it. If they do get drunk, be hard on them. Force them to get up early in the morning and carry on as normal so that it hurts. Take the mickey out of them for allowing themselves to get into that state, at the same time telling them how they could have avoided it. Show no sympathy. Above all, impress upon them that they must take responsibility for their own actions, and if they can't do that then they are a stupid fool.</p>
<p><b><i>Question 4: Do you think that the minimum age for off-sales purchases should be raised to 21 in Scotland?</i></b></p>	<p>no, Once again, absolutely not. This daft measure would affect millions of youngsters who drink responsibly and are not a "problem". They have done nothing wrong. Why punish them? Introducing draconian measures solves nothing. All it will achieve is to have people turn against authority and the problem will become worse.</p>
<p><b><i>Question 5: What criteria should be used to determine the types of premises (or specific premises) that should be subject to a 'social responsibility fee'? (e.g. late opening premises, or premises in a particular area)?</i></b></p>	<p>Absolutely not. It it the responsibility of the individual to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. If you had a crash, you wouldn't be able to blame the garage who sold you the car. In the same way, if you get drunk, it is nothing to do with the shop that sold you the drink. It is already illegal to serve more alcohol to someone who is already drunk. Enforce the existing laws instead of dreaming up new ones.</p>
<p><b><i>Question 6: Should a fee be applied to</i></b></p>	

<b><i>Occasional Licences as well as Premises Licences?</i></b>	no
<b><i>Question 7: Should a similar fee be applied to other premises licensed under separate legislation?</i></b>	no, No premises should be subject to an additional fee.
<b><i>Question 8: Do you agree that regulations should be made, under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, to extend the existing regulations to:</i></b>	no, Absolutely not. This is knee-jerking of the highest order and is totally stupid. If it is done, it will make the situation worse by turning alcohol into forbidden fruit. The third idea in the list would typically put an end to any kind of social competition, such as karaoke, charity raffle etc, where the prize might be a bottle of wine of suchlike. How would that contribute to addressing the problem in hand? Simple answer. It would not. Once again, the responsible majority would suffer instead.
<b><i>Question 9: Do you think that there should be separate checkouts for alcohol sales?</i></b>	no, To have separate checkouts for alcohol would once again mainly hit the responsible majority who have done nothing wrong. Take the example of a mum doing the weekly shop on a saturday with a couple of bored kids in tow. If this daft measure was implimented it would mean she would have to queue up twice in order to buy a bottle of wine for sunday lunch. Yet again, the innocent suffer for no reason. Why does the Scottish Government continually come up with ideas to restrict the freedoms of, inconvenience and penalise those who are responsible? Hit the wrong-doers, not the innocent.
<b><i>Question 10: Should there should be a requirement for alcohol checkout staff to be at least 18 years old?</i></b>	no, Currently, someone under 18 can only sell alcohol under the supervision of someone over 18. This law is adequate. Leave it as it is. It is up to businesses to decide what is best for their particular circumstances.
	The root cause of many of the so-called alcohol related problems being experienced is probably nothing whatsoever to do with alcohol itself. It is more to do with the attitude of mind of a MINORITY of those who happen to drink it. It is no longer considered to be the mark of a man that he can hold his drink. Peer pressure is no longer applied to act responsibly when drinking. Instead, it is considered big and clever to act like a fool after drinking. Recently, after having quite a lot to drink myself, I stopped a group of students from causing havoc in Princes Street one night. I was waiting for a bus and one of them asked me for a light, which I obliged. Another one then

***Question 11: Do you have any other comments or suggestions to make on, or any addition to, the proposals set out in this consultation paper?***

shouted out "Let's all go mental!!". Before they had a chance to start going "mental" I retorted with "No! Lets NOT all go mental! If you lot decide to go mental then not only are you going to annoy people, but it will make you appear as though you are idiots, which I'm sure you are not." That stopped them in their tracks. I then went on to explain that MEN can hold their drink and behave themselves. Only morons think it's big and clever to act like idiots after a few drinks. I also reminded them that if they start acting up, the rules will start to clamp down on the likes of me who are behaving themselves and then eventually everyone will suffer. Well it appears the the Scottish Government are keen to make everyone suffer sooner than I thought. Ditch these daft ideas now. I left the expletives out of the account above for abvious reasons. But that is an example of how easy it is to deal with this problem. Nip it in the bud, be assertive and don't be afraid to make people feel small. Do something like that instead of penalising innocent, responsible people and making us the laughing stock of Europe. The social climate and peer pressure is what has caused this situation to exist. The only way to remedy it is to change the way people think. This can be done with propaganda---in the same way that propoganda has been used to change public opinion many times in the past. Whatever the situation, the vast majority of people behave responsibly. It is unfair, unjust and unethical to invent ways of cracking down on them---which is essentially what the proposals would do. A minority of people are breaking the law. Enforce the existing laws and leave the rest of us out of it.

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