

Consultation Questions
Consultation on Alcohol Misuse

Question 1: We invite views on our proposals

Within these proposals i see several different ideas not all of them cohesive the prevention of sale of alcohol as a loss leader seems to be the strongest of the three responses and surly the most acceptable for several reasons namely that the sale of a dangerous drug at a loss seems inevitably flawed and aimed at promoting alcohol misuse merely to sell other products. Yet the other two proposals seem to damage

<p><i>to make regulations, under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005</i></p>	<p>the ability of off licenses to compete against supermarket premises as they don't have the advantage of selling other products these proposals seem to undermine there ability to compete fairly within the market place and have a potential to damage these retail outfits severely enough to force the major chains to move away from Scotland and to damage the employment that they represent in many communities.</p>
<p><i>Question 2: We invite views on whether a minimum pricing scheme should be based on the following principles</i></p>	<p>This proposal may directly breach competition legislation and I would personally find it to be directly harmful to my ability to ensure I am provided with the best possible option as a consumer. This is achieved through the use of minimum charges as regards the strength of the purchase product with regards alcohol this is usually measured within units 10 milliliters (or approximately 8 grams) of ethanol = 1 UK unit if this is the measurement provided for the minimum pricing scheme then it quite clearly favors those selling in pubs and clubs and seems detrimental to the sale in off-licenses a bottle of vodka for example is roughly 27 units of alcohol which comes out as 27 25ml servings each representing one unit of alcohol if the minimum price is 50p per unit for example a bottle would cost £13.50 this would result in an increase in the sale price of many items yet allow pubs and clubs to continue to retail there products at the same cost so long as it is above the 50p mark a unit this disproportionate affect would seem to contradict the idea of making alcohol misuse harder and will merely give pubs and clubs a control over the market place denying the consumer any form of choice as regards the purchase of alcohol.</p>
<p><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></p>	<p>a clearer understanding of the way units can be measured and applied needs to be put forward with greater understanding of the dangers alcohol presents not just to young people but to those on high incomes who have the disposable income to continue drinking regardless of cost.</p>
	<p>no, As a student in Scotland I feel this measure is absurd for several reasons which i intend to outline below. This raising of the age limit will ensure many students sees other drugs as a valid alternative to alcohol if they are priced away from its consumption and may very well increase what may be considered hard drug use</p>

<p>Question 4: Do you think that the minimum age for off-sales purchases should be raised to 21 in Scotland?</p>	<p>amongst the student population. The report namely seems to be concerned with underage drinkers and the raising of the age limit for buying within off-licenses seems to be aimed at reducing availability to those under 18 which seems counter productive to produce yet another group who have become accustomed to drinking under current legislation and will be forced to attempt to break the law to ensure they can continue to consume alcohol in a way that best suits them. It will enable pubs and clubs to charge what they like giving them an unfair market advantage. It will lead to high instances of antisocial behavior especially amongst those who feel the legislation is an assault on there civil liberties. As 18 to 21 year olds can vote and go and die for there country within the armed forces it seems irresponsible to deem them unfit to make other decisions such as how and when they wish to consume alcohol. The proposal contradicts the belief that an individual becomes an adult at the age of 18 and directly discriminates against a section of voters in a way unprecedented within Scottish law for example would it be acceptable to bar the purchase of alcohol within the age range of 41 to 44 on the grounds they may be providing alcohol to children it seems unlikely that this would be the case and as such it seems to be a further erosion of the civil liberties enjoyed by many voters.</p>
<p>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)?</p>	<p>I feel this is aimed at leveling out the disproportionate effects seen in the other proposals yet again I feel it misses the point and enforcement of current legislation seems more appropriate here such as fining premises that provide alcohol to individuals who are clearly already drunk.</p>
<p>Question 6: Should a fee be applied to Occasional Licences as well as Premises Licences?</p>	<p>no</p>
<p>Question 7: Should a similar fee be applied to other premises licensed under separate legislation?</p>	<p>no,</p>
<p>Question 8: Do you agree that regulations should be made, under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, to extend the existing regulations to:</p>	<p>no, This is a large part of our culture and as such needs protecting for example I recently went to an independent ales fair where they were handing out t-shirts if you tried all the beers this seemed a rather fun and enjoyable family occasion with food and live music and as far as I'm concerned although it promoted</p>

	alcohol it did it in an acceptable and controlled manner.
<i>Question 9: Do you think that there should be separate checkouts for alcohol sales?</i>	no,
<i>Question 10: Should there should be a requirement for alcohol checkout staff to be at least 18 years old?</i>	yes, This would limit the need to ask permission to sell alcohol by staff as age requirments have to be varified by someone over the age of 18.
<i>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?</i>	

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