Graham Ogden (Individual)

The Alcohol (Licensing, Public Health and Criminal Justice) (Scotland) Bill

The Scottish Government is right to concentrate on legislation that will moderate intake of alcohol.

Not so long ago, our consumption in Scotland equated to every adult drinking the equivalent of 46 bottles of vodka a year (and that included assuming no one was teetotal of which approx 25% of women are) so many of us are drinking far more than is good for us.

Whilst we await revision of the evidence on safe drinking, there is enough evidence to support the detrimental effect of alcohol on society.

In my own area of practice, we have seen a trebling in the number of oral cancers over the last 30 years, a condition which is often associated with alcohol and tobacco use.

Part 1 chapter 3 Alcohol education

Unless I have missed it, this section appears to lack detail merely mentioning a report by the Ministers after one year and five years showing the effect of the legislation. I feel more could be done to educate Scotland’s population about the effects of alcohol, and how to assess what they are drinking, (e.g. drink apps on smart phones, drop in clinics, initiatives in our Universities and Colleges like the one developed by my colleague Dr Shepherd with the art college).

Professor Graham R Ogden BDS, MDSc, PhD, FDS RCPS, FDS RCS Eng., FHEA, FRSA