Midlothian Council

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

Section 1 which relates to new mandatory conditions to be imposed by Licensing Boards on the pricing of multi packs, to support this since it will not encourage the purchase of additional alcohol to make savings, aware of the perception that it appeared that the drinks manufacturers were frustrating this by repackaging alcohol in containers of differing sizes, albeit that if this is enacted, increased time resource requirement would be required to check compliance by the Licensing Standards Officer (LSO).

Section 2 which introduces new licence conditions to limit caffeine levels in alcohol products which if introduced nationally would have minimal implications for local authorities to note that this would have little effect except on the sales of one particular brand of tonic wine since caffeine drinks were often consumed in tandem with alcohol but from separate containers.

Section 4 which enables Licensing Boards to vary existing premises licences requiring marking of drink containers to identify the source of the alcohol, to note that if this is imposed on outlets around where underage and street drinking is a problem which would likely fall to be enforced by the LSO and would then enable the Police to identify the source of confiscated drinks or street litter in problem areas.

Sections 6 to 13 which relates to restrictions or bans on advertising e.g. near schools and makes provision for fixed penalties for failure to comply in addition to criminal prosecution, to welcome this both from the viewpoint of efficiency and expediency; and that monitoring and/or dealing with complaints would likely fall to the LSO.

Part 2 which brings in provisions for Drink Banning Orders (DBOs) whereby the local authority or the police can apply to restrict or prevent individuals who engage in criminal or disorderly behaviour whilst under the influence of alcohol from entering premises licensed for the consumption of alcohol on the premises, to support the provision since it reinforces and assists pub-watches and provides protection to communities in areas where pub-watches do not exist or are not particularly effective.

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