Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill

City of Edinburgh Licensing Board

The City of Edinburgh Licensing Board ("the Board") welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill as follows:

The advantages and disadvantages of establishing a minimum alcohol sales price based on a unit of alcohol

The Board was generally of the view that a minimum alcohol sales price based on a unit of alcohol was the appropriate way forward, provided it was accepted as only one initiative amongst many aimed at reducing alcohol consumption. The Board asks the Committee to note that there is additional income generated. The Committee should continue pressure on the Government to address inequitable alcohol duty arrangements. In particular the Board would welcome an indication that additional revenue generated might be applied to health and alcohol awareness education.

The level at which such a proposed minimum price should be set and the justification for that level

The Board had no concluded view on this issue, but felt that a minimum price per unit set at 40p produced minimum prices that were still too low to act as a deterrent to consumption. It was recognised that a Government could find setting a higher level per unit a difficult decision to make in the face of trade opposition.

Any other aspects of the Bill

The Board also wished to suggest that the Bill provides an excellent opportunity to address ongoing difficulties in the operation of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. It will correspond further with the Government in this connection.

The Clerk
City of Edinburgh Licensing Board
12 December 2011