Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill

Dundee Licensing Forum

I am writing on behalf of the Dundee Licensing forum, which is made up of representatives of the Licensed Trade, the Community, Health, Education, Social Work, the Police and Young People, and is strongly committed to the Licensing Objectives of the Licensing (Scotland) Act.

The Forum considered the principles of the Bill at a meeting on 6th December and confirmed its view that the implementation of minimum pricing is essential, particularly for the protection and improvement of public health, but impacts on all of the licensing objectives.

The Forum is strongly concerned about the high level of alcohol-related health harm in Scotland, where alcohol-related mortality has nearly tripled over the past 30 years and with death rates highest in the most deprived communities in the country, it is also aware of the impact that rising levels of alcohol-related health harm are having on the NHS and to communicate as a whole.

There is clear evidence that as alcohol has become much more affordable, particularly with the increased availability of cheap alcohol sold in supermarkets; many more people are choosing to drink more at home because it is cheaper, or to 'pre-load' with cheap supermarket alcohol before going out for an evening. The consequences of these practices is an increase in overall alcohol consumption and an increase in burden of harm due to alcohol use.

Setting a minimum price for alcohol would reduce the price gap between the off-licence and on-licence trade and have the effect of lowering overall consumption with significant health benefits for the Scottish population. The Forum unanimously supported the introduction of a minimum price of 50p per unit.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or clarification.

Anne Singleton
Secretary to the Licensing Forum
Dundee Licensing Forum
9 December 2011