Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill

Presbytery of Edinburgh (Church of Scotland)

In response to the call of the Scottish Parliament’s Health and Sport Committee for written evidence on the Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill I write to express the support of the Presbytery of Edinburgh (Church of Scotland) for the principle of the minimum pricing of alcohol, re-iterated at its meeting on Tuesday 6th December 2011.

The Presbytery of Edinburgh had written previously to the Health and Sport Committee following the Presbytery meeting on 2nd February 2010 with reference to the Alcohol etc. (Scotland) Bill 2010. It is noted that the Notes accompanying the present Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill provide more recent data (2008) from the University of Sheffield’s School of Health and Related Research which replicates the findings presented before (2003), namely that as the minimum price per unit of alcohol increases more deaths are avoided, hospital admissions fall, numbers of crimes reduces, absenteeism from work reduces, unemployment due to alcohol problems reduces, healthcare costs reduce, etc.

In expressing its support for these measures the Presbytery of Edinburgh continues to believe that minimum pricing measures will offer “significant advantages to the health and well-being of our communities.”

Revd Bill Taylor
Convener, Social & Community Interests Committee
Presbytery of Edinburgh, Church of Scotland
12 December 2011