Dear Committee Member

Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above Bill. I have circulated the Bill and accompanying documentation to members of our Joint Central Committee and what follows is a summary of their views. The Joint Central Committee represents the 17,500 constables, sergeants, inspectors and chief inspectors of the Scottish Police Service.

The 2010/11 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey found that victims perceived the offender to have been under the influence of alcohol in 63% of violent crimes. Our members report that excessive consumption of alcohol is a regularly observed factor in all types of crime and antisocial behaviour and dealing with drunken individuals can often be time consuming, difficult and dangerous.

The Scottish Police Federation supports this Bill. It has no firm view on the proposed minimum price or other aspects of the Bill.

Yours sincerely

Calum Steele
General Secretary