Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill

South Ayrshire Council

South Ayrshire Licensing Board continues to be concerned regarding the extremely worrying statistics provided by the Health Board regarding the instances of alcohol related problems within the South Ayrshire area. Indeed alcohol related hospital discharges within South Ayrshire are statistically significantly worse than Scottish average. The Board supports the principle of minimum pricing as proposed by the Bill. It accepts that the introduction of minimum pricing will not of itself solve Scotland’s problems with alcohol; nevertheless, it is a useful tool in combating alcohol abuse.

The Board considers that minimum pricing will have a greater effect on off sales than on sales. It considers that this is appropriate since there is now such a high volume of alcohol sold through off sales premises (At least 68% of alcohol sold is sold through off sales according to statistics provided to the Board).

The Board would also welcome further consideration of legislation regarding the question of the caffeine content of alcoholic drinks.

Valerie Andrews
Head of Legal and Administration
South Ayrshire Council
12 December 2011