South Ayrshire Licensing Forum is in support of the proposal of minimum pricing as described by the Bill.

Our members are concerned by the information and statistics provided to us by the Health Board and by the constant press and television reports which highlight Scotland’s poor relationship with alcohol.

We note that there is currently greater regulation of on sales than off sales and welcome the introduction of minimum pricing but recognise that more needs to be done to tackle the increasing problem.

In relation to an actual figure for the minimum price, we understand that 45p per unit was previously mentioned and the Forum feels this would be a good starting point. We would be concerned if the minimum price were to rise as high as 70p as we feel that even with the high (and ever rising) fuel costs it would then be worthwhile for people to travel outwith Scotland and purchase the alcohol to bring in which would defeat the purpose of the proposal.

The Forum welcomes future regulation of Off Sales premises as we understand that over 60% of alcohol is sold through Off Sales and we also believe On Sales premises provide a much safer drinking environment with trained staff, first aiders, stewards and often CCTV.

Robin Russell
Chairman
On Behalf of South Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum
12 December 2011