Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill

Pricing mechanism

Scottish Licensed Trade Association

We refer to your communication in respect of proposed mechanisms for changing the minimum unit price of alcohol, should the Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) Scotland Bill be passed.

Having had little time to communicate this to our members and having only just discussed this matter at The Scottish Licensed Trade Association’s Executive Committee meeting earlier this week, we would emphasise that the following is only an initial comment on this matter and we reserve the right to make further or alternative comments at a later date.

Both the options suggested, index linked and “modelling” were discussed and the Association’s Executive Committee concluded that a mixture of both should be considered by Government.

The minimum unit price of alcohol should be based on a specific inflation index such as CPI or RPI and that this should be adjusted on either a six month or yearly basis. However, coupled with this, in order to take into account whether the price remains “proportionate to the problem” under EU law, the Sheffield model based appraisal of alcohol minimum pricing should be updated in year three. This would also take into account changes in other data which may influence the effect of minimum pricing; it would give a comparison against the index linked mechanism and a balance between both mechanisms could be drawn.

We would reiterate that this is only an initial view on this matter and further discussions within our organisation will be required before any official policy announcement will be made by The Scottish Licensed Trade Association.

Colin A Wilkinson
Secretary
Scottish Licensed Trade Association