

Consultation Questions

Consultation on Alcohol Misuse

Question 1: We invite views on our proposals to

As regards all of the above, I think we should follow the Australian Model, where alcohol shopping is kept separate from ordinary shopping, ie Bottle Shops, which are similar of Off Sales, and separate out the aisles for alcohol shopping from food/domestic shopping, which Oz

<p><i>make regulations, under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005</i></p>	<p>also does. It means that alcohol and the various promo activities surrounding its sale are not "in your face" and it is harder to sell underage. It also means children aren't confronted with booze ads when they go shopping with their parents or indeed alone.</p>
<p><i>Question 2: We invite views on whether a minimum pricing scheme should be based on the following principles</i></p>	<p>I am not sure that minimum pricing will have much effect, nor do I see why retailers should have to deal with a loss of competition. There is no minimum pricing arrangement for tobacco products, for example. However, I think that there should be absolute zero tolerance for retailers who sell underage. The fine in the first instance should be prohibitive and the funds raised should go directly to the NHS. For any subsequent offence, loss of licence with no right of appeal. The onus should be on the seller to sell correctly and responsibly, and this is where compliance efforts should be directed.</p>
<p><i>Question 3: What particular information do you think parents and carers would find helpful to enable them to support their children to make positive choices about alcohol?</i></p>	<p>I don't think parents should demonise alcohol. Children copy what they see around them, so if they see alcohol used (not ABused) in a social context, with food, with friends, they might hopefully reach the conclusion that it is not that glamorous, is pleasant, but not a forbidden fruit that they have to have at all costs. But as before, retail has to play a part and placing alcohol so prominently in places where food and domestic shopping is carried out is not so clever. But as with smoking, there needs to be an awareness of the effect alcohol has on the major organs and an awareness of the risk factors in being drunk and out of control - violence, sexual abuse, unwanted pregnancy - and the fact that being really drunk is really uncool.</p>
<p><i>Question 4: Do you think that the minimum age for off-sales purchases should be raised to 21 in Scotland?</i></p>	<p>yes, I think that just makes sense and I don't know why we don't just do it right now.</p>
<p><i>Question 5: What criteria should be used to determine the types of premises (or specific premises) that should be subject to a 'social responsibility fee'? (e.g. late opening premises, or premises in a particular area)?</i></p>	<p>I don't think it would be fair to hit every venue with a social responsibility fee, which would put costs up and discourage activities - ie sports clubs with bars, which host private events, fundraising events, prize giving dinners etc. But clubs, bars seeking late licences etc should probably pay something based on turnover.</p>
<p><i>Question 6: Should a fee be applied to</i></p>	

<i>Occasional Licences as well as Premises Licences?</i>	no
<i>Question 7: Should a similar fee be applied to other premises licensed under separate legislation?</i>	no,
<i>Question 8: Do you agree that regulations should be made, under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, to extend the existing regulations to:</i>	no,
<i>Question 9: Do you think that there should be separate checkouts for alcohol sales?</i>	yes,
<i>Question 10: Should there should be a requirement for alcohol checkout staff to be at least 18 years old?</i>	yes,
<i>Question 11: Do you have any other comments or suggestions to make on, or any addition to, the proposals set out in this consultation paper?</i>	