

Consultation Questions

Consultation on Alcohol Misuse

Question 1: We invite views on our proposals to make regulations, under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

This is a completely unfair proposal which will penalise ordinary, hardworking people who do not abuse alcohol. It is none of the government's business whether people should or should not be allowed to benefit from cheap alcohol - as an adult who does not cause problems when drinking, I welcome cheap deals in supermarkets and if the govt thinks its plan to axe these deals will be accepted then it deserves to be punished at the ballot box. It will do nothing to stop binge drinking and anti-social behaviour as we are led to believe. It is merely a

	<p>cynical and mendacious tax raising ploy to shore up revenue in the face of the SNP's fatally flawed Local Income Tax, which will leave a financial black hole in Scotland's finances.</p>
<p>Question 2: We invite views on whether a minimum pricing scheme should be based on the following principles</p>	<p>Minimum pricing is unfair to the vast majority of ordinary drinkers as it will penalise people who buy alcohol to drink at home and do so responsibly. It will also increase the incidents of smuggling and will put Scottish retailers at a competitive disadvantage compared to other parts of the UK. Minimum pricing is very likely to be against the law anyway (e.g. EU and other Anti-cartel laws) and the Scottish Government has not said which legal provisions will allow minimum pricing, which suggests they know it would be illegal. Also, it is hypocritical of politicians to stop ordinary people buying cheap drink when they enjoy subsidised bars at Holyrood etc.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Telling about the harm it may cause them in later life.</p>
<p>Question 4: Do you think that the minimum age for off-sales purchases should be raised to 21 in Scotland?</p>	<p>no, Such a law would be unfair to ordinary students simply wanting to buy a bottle of wine to drink in the privacy of their own home. It will reduce the attractiveness of Scotland as a place to study, and cause problems for shops (unless of course the Govt is looking to introduce ID cards by the back door - i.e the "National Entitlement Card"- and this 21 or over measure will be used to justify the imposition of ID cards on Scots). The 21 yrs min age is a draconian and unwarranted measure (I am 33). I also find it incredible that the SNP who have in the past campaigned for the voting age to be reduced to 16 is proposing an off-sales limit of 21 for the same group of voters - I hope your party will be punished amongst this voting group if you impose this erroneous measure.</p>
<p>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)?</p>	<p>No - the fee is merely another cynical tax raising ploy which will not be used to pay for alcohol education but in fact shore up this incompetent government's public finances (see answer to Qu1 also)</p>
<p>Question 6: Should a fee be applied to</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, No - this is the nanny state gone mad - more red tape; more petty rules which will do nothing to stop alcohol abuse and which are merely a public sector job creation scheme to shore up the SNP vote(i.e. the "inspectors" who will police this.
<i>Question 9: Do you think that there should be separate checkouts for alcohol sales?</i>	no, This measure again smacks of the nanny state and will inconvenience and stigmatise millions of law abiding ordinary people - why should their shopping trips be needlessly prolonged for the sake of McAskill's self-righteous vanity? Also, supermarkets will hopefully challenge this in the courts as a restraint of trade.
<i>Question 10: Should there should be a requirement for alcohol checkout staff to be at least 18 years old?</i>	no, No - the current system of an under 18 year old ringing a bell to tell a supervisor they are selling alcohol works perfectly well.
<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>	I think the measures are flawed and iniquitous and the hypocrisy of McAskill self-righteously pontificating about drink when he was detained by police in London in November 1999 on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly near Wembley Stadium is sickening. The message is - vote SNP, and your freedom of choice will be diminished.