

Consultation Questions
Consultation on Alcohol Misuse

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

Although Scotland does have problem with alcohol and binge drinking, cheap alcohol is not the main problem. In many European countries alcohol is much cheaper than it is here. Indeed, some even travel to Europe solely to bring back cheaper alcohol. However, in no European country do they have the drinking culture we do. It makes much more sense to challenge the culture of binge drinking through education and other methods and to tackle the

	<p>root causes of binge drinking, namely poverty, before imposing this tax on the poor.</p>
<p><i>Question 2: We invite views on whether a minimum pricing scheme should be based on the following principles</i></p>	<p>Again, the above comments apply. Although Scotland does have problem with alcohol and binge drinking, cheap alcohol is not the main problem. In many European countries alcohol is much cheaper than it is here. Indeed, some even travel to Europe solely to bring back cheaper alcohol. However, in no European country do they have the drinking culture we do. It makes much more sense to challenge the culture of binge drinking through education and other methods and to tackle the root causes of binge drinking, namely poverty, before imposing this tax on the poor.</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>Advice on knowing limits, slowly introducing children to alcohol, as is done in Europe, from a young age and ways to deal with alcohol problems.</p>
	<p>no, This proposal is simply ludicrous given the current age of 18 is not being enforced and, as a result, cannot be said to be inefficient. In Lothian and Borders, 17 of 51 off licenses recently tested sold alcohol to people under the age of 18 and of all recently caught doing this less than 1% had their licenses suspended. The main problem does not lie with the 18-21 age group who are being punished though this proposal nor with existing laws, but those younger than 18 who buy alcohol illegally as a result of your government not enforcing existing legalisation. Surely a crackdown on these problems should be implemented before any changes are brought through? This legislation will send a mixed message to young people and prevent them from learning lessons from alcohol in the safety of their own homes in the way that is the culture in Europe, where people generally have a much more sensible attitude to alcohol, and will force young people between the ages of 18-21 into bars and clubs, open to dangers such as drink spiking. This law will also hit the poorest in the community, as many purchase alcohol from off licences because they cannot afford the prices in pubs and clubs, so is not only ageist but is also classist, effectively acting as a tax on the poor. Changing alcohol laws will also alienate and patronise the student population. The SNP have for a long time relied on significant student</p>

<p>Question 4: Do you think that the minimum age for off-sales purchases should be raised to 21 in Scotland?</p>	<p>support and this law will not only anger them but will ultimately lose your party many votes from disillusioned students. It only takes a small calculation to figure out that the cost of drinking the recommended weekly units in a pub for 4 years rather than at home is significantly higher than the cost of the graduate endowment you have recently removed. You will not only be erasing any progress you have made in improving the lives of students and reducing their debt, but will actively be making their lives more costly. This is a betrayal of the trust of the many students who voted for you in the hope you would help them out of poverty and debt. It is completely unfair to punish a whole group of largely responsible young people for the reckless behaviour of a minority and this law will demonise and insult young people already fast becoming disillusioned by the SNP's allegedly "young person friendly" policies. It is so disappointing that your government is not respecting the many responsible young people who, by the age of 21, could have been parents for 5 years, paid tax for 5 years, lost their lives in the armed forces, and, if your policy of lowering the voting age is passed, had a say in the government of the country. Instead, changing the age to purchase alcohol in off licenses will only patronise, insult, demonise and remove the rights of young people for the sake of a few people who are breaking current ill enforced laws. I will be doing my best to organise as much opposition to this as possible and urge you to take the opportunity to rectify this and take my views which reflect that of so many people, both young and old, into account.</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>This should only be imposed if the local community feel it to be necessary.</p>
<p>Question 6: Should a fee be applied to Occasional Licences as well as Premises Licences?</p>	<p>no</p>
<p>Question 7: Should a similar fee be applied to other premises licensed under separate legislation?</p>	<p>no,</p>
<p>Question 8: Do you agree that regulations should be made, under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, to extend the existing</p>	<p>no, The reason why people binge drink is nothing to do with advertising, but a cultural issue, Removing advertising would simply be a</p>

<i>regulations to:</i>	sticking plaster over a wider problem.
<i>Question 9: Do you think that there should be separate checkouts for alcohol sales?</i>	no, Again, the reason people buy alcohol and binge drinking is not because they can do it in the same queue as buying their bread and milk, it is a wider cultural issue which needs to be tackled. There are no such counters in Europe, where attitudes to alcohol are much healthier. This will, a result, serve little purpose other than as an inconvenience and in no way change attitudes.
<i>Question 10: Should there should be a requirement for alcohol checkout staff to be at least 18 years old?</i>	no, As long as they check every customer for ID, which is not currently being done, then this is not necessary. The priority should be to tighten up ID checks in all retailers and give harsher punishments for not doing so.
<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 would like you to know how disappointed and angry I am with your government's aims to impose an age restriction of 21 on buying alcohol in supermarkets and off licenses and why I feel these will be so detrimental to Scotland and its young people and I hope my above responses convey this anger.

This email was received from the INTERNET and scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Cable&Wireless in partnership with MessageLabs. (CCTM Certificate Number 2007/11/0032.) In case of problems, please call your organisation's IT Helpdesk. Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.