

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 February 2013 20:43  
**To:** Alcohol Consultation  
**Subject:** Alcohol Strategy 2012

Dear Sir

Re: Alcohol Strategy

This is my response to the above consultation. I have chosen not to respond via the form because as a private citizen many of the questions are irrelevant to me.

Also I believe the "problem" of alcohol misuse has been misdiagnosed and the proposals in the strategy are therefore wrong.

If I understand the position correctly the laws in respect of drunken and disorderly behaviour are still in force and this is what is reducing certain areas to what the strategy describes as no go areas. However this is a result of inadequate enforcement of existing laws and rather than bringing in proposals which penalise responsible drinkers the arrest of people exhibiting drunken and disorderly behaviour their detention in cells overnight and an appearance before a magistrate the next day when they are fined a weeks wages (or benefits) would probably discourage repeats. This is what used to happen, and not so very long ago.

I also believe the laws relating to Landlords/Licensed premises serving under age of already drunk patrons are still in force. The penalties for this is closure. Again enforcement would make an impact on solving the problem.

It is therefore self-evident that the proposal made in the strategy are incorrect as they do not address the root causes of the problem. In the past people did not generally go out to "get legless" and it was of course much more difficult due to the restrictions on both the place alcoholic beverages could be obtained and the times at which they could be obtained. For those people who did get drunk enforcement of the law was much more efficient and effective.

The other problem with the proposals is that they will largely affect non-binge drinkers. Minimum unit pricing is the most obvious of these but it is unlikely that the other measures will be cost free.

So why not make those responsible for abusing alcohol bear the cost?

This could be done quite simply by charging those admitted to hospital or needing medical treatment as a result of over indulgence in alcohol for the cost of their treatment, including any transport costs. For those arrested for breaking the law the fines could cover the cost of policing, arrest and overnight accommodation in the cells. My guess is that after having to pay these costs they would have insufficient funds to indulge in binge drinking. Thus the problem would be solved without making the innocent pay.



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