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Alcohol Strategy Consultation
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Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to you from Manchester Airports Group to provide some comments on the proposed alcohol strategy as outlined in your current consultation document.

As the largest UK-owned airport operator, owning and managing Manchester, East Midlands and Bournemouth Airports, we host a number of duty free and arrivals shops that sell alcohol to outbound and inbound passengers. Under current English licensing laws and The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, shops located within "examination station at an airport" are exempt from the requirement to be licensed, so we believe that both duty free outlets and shops selling alcohol in arrival halls should continue to remain outside the scope of these proposals.

Our position is based on the following:-

- Unlike high street stores, rigid controls are in place to regulate the amount of alcohol that can be purchased at airport duty free outlets.
- Duty free outlets are located beyond airport security, meaning that they are controlled environments with stringent measures in place to deter all forms of anti-social behaviour.
- Customers purchasing alcohol in duty free shops can neither consume alcohol bought on site nor make the kind of bulk purchases these proposals seek to regulate.
- The physical location of airport shops deters the purchase of large volumes of alcohol from shops in arrival halls.
- Alcohol bought in duty free and arrivals shops is typically done on impulse or purchased as gifts.

Further, as Scottish Airports are exempt from minimum unit pricing and are allowed to offer quantity discounts and promotions under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, we believe that Scottish and English airports should be treated equally.

I thank you for this opportunity to comment on these proposals.

