

Alcohol Consultation,
Drugs & Alcohol Unit,
Home Office,
4th Floor Fry Building,
2 Marsham Street,
London
SW1P 4DF

11th January 2013

A Consultation on Delivering the Governments Policies to Cut Alcohol Fuelled Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Dear Sir

I am pleased to set out below my response to the above consultation. (I attach, and have appropriately completed, pages "Information about you" from the Consultation Document).

Consultation Question 1:

Do you agree that this MUP level would achieve these aims?

No. I would set the minimum unit price level of alcohol at 50p as proposed in Scotland, (or above 50p). Total reduction of only 3.3% in alcohol consumption seems disappointingly low. It is important that Government action is effective.

Consultation Question 2:

Should other factors or evidence be considered when setting a minimum unit price for alcohol?

No. These factors seem fine. However, there is likely to be tension between some of the factors. I realise that it is necessary to address the issue of Government debt. But the impact on the public purse should not be able to take precedence over very important considerations such as reduction in crime.

Consultation Question 3:

How do you think the level of minimum unit price set by the Government should be adjusted over time?

The minimum unit price should be automatically updated in line with inflation each year.

Consultation Question 4:

The aim of minimum unit pricing is to reduce the consumption of harmful and hazardous drinkers, while minimising the impact on responsible drinkers. Do you think that there are any other people, organisations or groups that could be particularly affected by a minimum unit price for alcohol?

Yes. However, the objective of reducing alcohol consumption by harmful and hazardous drinkers should take precedence over any impact on retailers.

Consultation Question 5:

Do you think there should be a ban on multi-buy promotions involving alcohol in the off-trade?

Yes.

Consultation Question 6:

Are there any further offers which should be included in a ban on multi-buy promotions?

No. I support the proposals in the left hand column of the table on page 21 (i.e. types of promotions that would be banned).

Consultation Question 7:

Should other factors or evidence be considered when considering a ban on multi-buy promotions?

Don't Know.

Consultation Question 8:

The aim of a ban on multi-buy promotions is to stop promotions that encourage people to buy more than they otherwise would, helping people to be aware of how much they drink, and to tackle irresponsible alcohol sales. Do you think that there are any other groups that could be particularly affected by a ban on multi-buy promotions?

Yes. Retailers could be affected by a ban on multi-buy promotions. However, the positive benefits of the ban, in helping to deliver the items listed on the Table on page 16 (top 7 lines) in the Consultation Document should take precedence over any impact on retailers.

Consultation Question 9:

Do you think each of the mandatory licensing conditions is effective in promoting the licensing objectives (crime prevention / public safety / public nuisance / prevention of harm to children)?

"Yes" in all 20 boxes.

Consultation Question 10:

Do you think that the mandatory licensing conditions do enough to target irresponsible promotions in pubs and clubs?

Don't Know.

Consultation Question 11:

Are there other issues related to the licensing objectives (prevention of crime and disorder / public safety / prevention of public nuisance / protection of children from harm) which could be tackled through a mandatory licensing condition?

Yes. "Prevention of Public Nuisance" is likely to be affected by opening hours, especially late in the evening, and in the early hours of the morning. Anything that can be included in mandatory licensing conditions to reduce opening hours could help prevent public nuisance.

Consultation Question 12:

Do you think the current approach, with five mandatory licensing conditions applying to the on-trade and only one of those to the off-trade, is appropriate?

No. I would support a "ban on irresponsible promotions" in both the on-trade and off-trade.

Consultation Question 13:

What sources of evidence on alcohol-related health harm could be used to support the introduction of a cumulative impact policy (CIP) if it were possible for a CIP to include consideration of health?

No comment.

Consultation Question 14:

Do you think any aspects of the current cumulative impact policy process would need to be amended to allow consideration of data on alcohol-related health harms?

Yes. I support the proposal that licensing authorities would be able to take evidence of alcohol-related health harm into account in deciding whether to introduce a cumulative impact policy and the extent of that CIP. However, I would prefer that this would be an obligation rather than a discretionary power.

Consultation Question 15:

What impact do you think allowing consideration of data on alcohol-related health harms when introducing a cumulative impact policy would have if it were used in your local area? Please provide evidence to support your response.

I do not have any specific comments or evidence about my local area. However, I would expect "allowing consideration of data on alcohol-related health harms when introducing a cumulative impact policy" to facilitate a more comprehensive cumulative impact policy.

Consultation Question 16:

Should special provision to reduce the burdens on ancillary sellers be limited to specific types of business, and/or be available to all types of business providing they met key criteria for limited or incidental sales?

"No" to A, B and C. I do not support moving away from the status quo.

Consultation Question 17:

If special provision to reduce licensing burdens on ancillary sellers were to include a list of certain types of premises, do you think it should apply to the following?

"No" to A, B, C, D and E.

Consultation Question 18:

Do you have any suggestions for other types of businesses to which such special provision could apply without impacting adversely on one or more of the licensing objectives?

No.

Consultation Question 19:

The aim of a new 'ancillary seller' status is to reduce burdens on businesses where the sale of alcohol is only a small part of their business and occurs alongside the provision of a wider product or service, while minimising loopholes for irresponsible businesses and maintaining the effectiveness of enforcement (see paragraphs 9.2 and 9.3). Do you think that the qualification criteria proposed in paragraph 9.6 meet this aim?

No. I do not support moving away from the status quo. I am concerned about the statement in paragraph 9.6 that "these qualification criteria have the potential to significantly widen the types of businesses included".

Consultation Question 20:

Do you think that these proposals would significantly reduce the burdens on ancillary sellers?

A "Don't know" but B "Yes" and C "Yes". However, I consider that the term "light touch authorisation" is giving the wrong message. I do not support changing from the status quo in respect of a premises licence.

Consultation Question 21:

Do you think that the following proposals would impact adversely on one or more of the licensing objectives?

"Yes" to A, B and C.

Consultation Question 22:

What other issues or options do you think should be considered when taking forward proposals for a lighter touch authorisation?

I do not favour lighter touch authorisation.

Consultation Question 23:

Do you agree that licensing authorities should have the power to allow organisers of community events involving licensable activities to notify them through a locally determined notification process?

No.

Consultation Question 24:

What impact do you think a locally determined notification would have on organisers of community events?

"Don't Know" to A and B.

Consultation Question 25:

Should the number of TENs which can be given in respect of individual premises be increased?

No.

Consultation Question 26:

If yes, please indicate which option you would prefer:

Not applicable

Consultation Question 27:

Do you think that licensing authorities should have local discretion around late night refreshment in each of the following ways?

"No" to A and B.

Consultation Question 28:

Do you agree that motorway service areas should receive a nationally prescribed exemption from regulations for the provision of late night refreshment?

Yes.

Consultation Question 29:

Please describe any other types of premises to which you think a nationally prescribed exemption should apply.

None.

Consultation Question 30:

Do you agree with each of the following proposals?

"No" to A, B, and D. B is especially unwelcome, in view of the need to discourage drink driving. "Yes" to C.

Consultation Question 31:

Do you think that each of the following would reduce the overall burdens on business?

"No" to A, B, C and D.

Consultation Question 32:

Do you think that the following measures would impact adversely on one or more of the licensing objectives?

"Yes" to B. "No" to A, C and D.

Consultation Question 33:

In addition to the suggestions outlined above, what other sections of or processes under the 2003 Act could in your view be removed or simplified in order to impact favourably on businesses without undermining the statutory licensing objectives or significantly increasing burdens on licensing authorities?

None.

Consultation Question 34:

Do you think that the Impact Assessments related to the consultation provide an accurate representation of the costs and benefits of the proposals?

No comment.

Consultation Question 35:

Do you have any comments on the methodologies or assumptions used in the impact assessments? If so please detail them, referencing clearly the impact assessment and page to which you refer.

No.

Yours sincerely

Graham M. Phillip

3. Information about you

Redacted
s40
Personal Information

The following questions ask for some information about you. The purpose of these questions is to provide some context on your consultation responses and to enable us to assess the impact of the proposals on different groups of people. By providing this information you are giving your consent for us to process and use this information in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Company Name or Organisation (if applicable):

Which of the following best describes you or the professional interest you represent? Please select **one** box from the list below:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual involved in licensed trade/club premises |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Small or medium sized enterprise involved in licensed trade/club premises (up to 50 employees) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Large business involved in licensed trade/club premises |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Small or medium sized enterprise involved in the production of alcohol (up to 50 employees) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Business involved in the production of alcohol |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Trade body representing the licensed trade/club premises or alcohol producers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Alcohol-related best practice scheme |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Person or organisation specialising in licensing law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Voluntary and community organisation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Licensing authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Licensing authority officer |

If you are from a licensing authority please specify which licensing authority in the box below:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public health body (e.g. Primary Care Trust, Local Health Board, Director of Public Health) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Local Government (other) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Police and crime commissioner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Police force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Police officer |

If you are from a police force specify which police force in the box below:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bodies representing public sector professionals (eg. Local Government Association, Institute of Licensing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Central Government |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Member of the public |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (specify in the box below): |

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation or interest group, how many members do you have?
(Please specify in the box below):

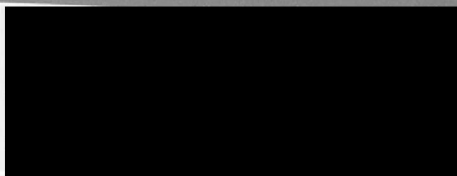
Number of members:

Please select one box from the list below that best describes where you live or where your organisation is based:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| North East England | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| North West England | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South East England | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| West Midlands | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| East Midlands | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| East of England | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| South West England | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| London | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wales | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scotland | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Northern Ireland | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| European Union | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rest of the world | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you are a member of the public:

What is your gender?
(Please select one option)



What is your age? (Please
tick one)

