

## HEALTH AND SPORT COMMITTEE

### CALL FOR WRITTEN EVIDENCE ON THE ALCOHOL (MINIMUM PRICING) (SCOTLAND) BILL

The Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee is today, Tuesday 1 November 2011, calling for evidence from all interested parties on the general principles of the Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill. This Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Government on 31 October 2011.

The main purpose of the Bill is to introduce a minimum price of alcohol below which alcohol must not be sold on licensed premises. The minimum price will be set according to the strength of the alcohol, the volume of the alcohol and the minimum price per unit.

For further information on the Bill and its accompanying documents, please see the Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill

#### **Call for Written Evidence**

The Committee welcomes evidence from individuals as well as from organisations and professional bodies. The Committee intends that evidence received will inform its consideration of the Bill at Stage 1. All responses will be made available to the Committee.

The Committee invites views on all aspects of the Bill. Responses should address all or any of the following points in turn—

- The advantages and disadvantages of establishing a minimum alcohol sales price based on a unit of alcohol;
- The level at which such a proposed minimum price should be set and the justification for that level;
- Any other aspects of the Bill.

#### **How to submit your evidence**

Please send your views on the Bill by no later than **Monday, 12 December 2011**.

Responses should be sent, wherever possible, electronically and in MS Word format to [healthandsport.committee@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:healthandsport.committee@scottish.parliament.uk) Hard copy responses may be sent to—

Health and Sport Committee  
T3.60  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Responses should be no more than four sides of A4 in length.

**All written evidence received may be published by the Parliament and will be treated as a public document. If you wish to submit evidence in confidence or anonymously please read the policy on handling information outlined below.**

### **What happens next?**

Following consideration of the written submissions received, the Committee will agree a programme of oral evidence sessions and may request further written evidence as required.

Should you require alternative formats of this document or further information or assistance in making a written submission to the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the clerking team.

### **For Committee information, contact:**

Rodger Evans: 0131 348 5247  
Email: [rodger.evans@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:rodger.evans@scottish.parliament.uk)

Or

Andrew Howlett: 0131 348 5224  
Email: [andrew.howlett@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:andrew.howlett@scottish.parliament.uk)

### **For further information, the media contact is:**

Ann Donald: 0131 348 5605  
E-mail: [ann.donald@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:ann.donald@scottish.parliament.uk)

**For public information enquiries, contact:** 0131 348 5000

### **For general enquiries, contact:**

0845 278 1999 (local call rate)  
email: [sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk)  
Visit our website at: [www.scottish.parliament.uk](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk)

## **Policy on handling of information received in response to calls for evidence**

This information lets you know how committees of the Scottish Parliament will deal with any information sent in response to calls for evidence and any subsequent correspondence.

Most people who submit evidence want it to be put in the public domain. In addition, the committees of the Scottish Parliament are committed to being open in their dealings in accordance with the Scottish Parliament's founding principles.

Our normal practice is to publish all relevant evidence that is sent to us on our website and we may also include it in the hard copy of any committee report.

**Therefore, if you wish your evidence to be treated as confidential, or for your evidence to be published anonymously, please contact the Clerk to the Committee, before you submit your evidence.**

You should be aware that it is for the relevant committee to decide whether the evidence can be accepted on the basis that it will be seen in full by the committee but will not be published, or will be published in edited form or anonymously. See section on "Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002" below.

There are a few situations where we do not publish all the evidence sent to us. This may be for practical reasons: for example, where the number of submissions we receive does not make this possible or where we receive a large number of submissions in very similar terms. In that case, we would normally publish only a list of the names of people who have submitted evidence.

In addition, there may be a few situations where we may not choose to publish your evidence or have to edit it before publication for legal reasons.

#### *Data Protection Act 1998*

The Parliament must comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. This affects what information about living people (personal data and sensitive personal data) we can make public.

Your evidence may contain personal data or sensitive personal data relating to you. In line with our normal practice, we will usually publish it, if relevant to the inquiry. We will not, however, publish your signature or personal contact information arising in your private life (for example, your home telephone number or home address).

We may also have to edit information which can identify another living person who has not specifically given their consent to have information about them made public.

In these situations, committee members will have access to the full text of your evidence, even if it has not been published in full.

**If you consider that evidence that you plan to submit may raise any other issues concerning the Data Protection Act, please contact the Clerk to the Committee before you submit your evidence.**

#### *Potentially defamatory material*

Typically, the Parliament will not publish defamatory statements or material. If we think your submission contains potentially defamatory material, usually, we will return it to you with an invitation to substantiate the comments or remove them. In these circumstances if the evidence is returned to us and it still

contains material which we consider may be defamatory, it may not be considered by the relevant committee and it may have to be destroyed.

*Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002*

The Parliament is covered by the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This also affects the way that we deal with your evidence.

As stated above, if you wish your evidence to be treated as confidential, or for your evidence to be published anonymously, please contact the Clerk to the Committee, before you submit your evidence.

In particular you should be aware that if we receive a request for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, we may be required legally to release the information to the person who has made the request – even where the relevant committee has agreed to treat all or part of the information in confidence or publish it anonymously.

So, in the circumstances outlined above, while we can assure you that your document / name will not be circulated to the general public in the context of the relevant committee's current work, we are unable to give you a guarantee that the full document will never be released.