I refer to your correspondence dated 2 December 2009 in connection with the above subject, which has been considered by members of the Operational Policing Business Area and can now offer the following by way of comment.

It should be noted that we have chosen to provide comment on the headings which describe the main purposes of the Bill. Having previously been consulted on proposals for reform, for brevity, these comments have been hyperlinked within this response and provided as appendices.

**Introduce a minimum sales price for a unit of alcohol (sections 1 & 2 of the Bill).**

ACPOS is supportive of this provision. Throughout the country, we see alcohol sold for as little as 50p per shot. Any mechanism which slows down the sale and consumption of alcohol should be supported.

Previous comment, given in September 2008 in response to the Scottish Government consultation on ‘Changing Scotland’s relationship with alcohol’ is accessible below:

0001816 - Previous ACPOS comment - Introduce a minimum sales price for a unit of alcohol.doc

**Introduce a restriction for off-sales on supply of alcoholic drinks free of charge or at a reduced price (section 3).**

This would bring the off-sales trade into line with on-sales premises, remove any ambiguity that currently exists; and should be strongly supported.

Previous comment, given in September 2008 in response to the Scottish Government consultation on ‘Changing Scotland’s relationship with alcohol’ is accessible below:

0001816 - Previous ACPOS response - Introduce a restriction for off sales on supply of alcoholic drinks free of charge or at reduced price (section 3).doc

**Make provision in law with respect to the sale of alcohol to under 21s (section 8).**

ACPOS originally spoke out heavily in defence of this piece of legislation following pilots in Lothian and Borders, Fife and Strathclyde. However, once we closely evaluated the projects it was clear that these proposals were only
part of a much bigger strategy in respect of controlling supply of alcohol to under 18’s. ACPOS therefore adopted a much softer approach in support of the Government, stating that this type of initiative was a useful tool in the box and would assist the police and local councils to address problems at a local level. In addition it could also be used to address problematic premises and allow Boards to impose a condition on a licence as a punitive measure against errant licence holders. We continue to support this section.

Previous comment, given in September 2008 in response to the Scottish Government consultation on ‘Changing Scotland’s relationship with alcohol’ is accessible below:

0001816 - Previous ACPOS response - Make provision in law with respect to the sale of alcohol to under 21s (section 8).doc

Restrict the location of drinks promotions in off-sales premises (section 4).

Previous comment, given in September 2008 in response to the Scottish Government consultation on ‘Changing Scotland’s relationship with alcohol’ is accessible below:

0001816 - Previous ACPOS response - Restrict the location of drinks promotions in off sales premises (section 4).doc

Introduce a requirement for licence holders to operate an age verification policy (section 5).

ACPOS support this proposal.

Make provision in law for a social responsibility levy on licence holders (sections 10 & 11).

Previous comment, given in September 2008 in response to the Scottish Government consultation on ‘Changing Scotland’s relationship with alcohol’ is accessible below:

0001816 - Previous ACPOS response - Make provision in law for a social responsibility levy on licence holders (sections 10 and 11).doc

Caroline Scott
General Secretary
ACPOS
20 January 2010