Please find below some comments on the Alcohol etc (Scotland) Bill

I responded to the original consultation on behalf of Home Safety Scotland. However I was unaware of the opportunity to make a submission in sufficient time to consult the other members therefore this submission, although based on the original views of the members, is from myself.

Q. The advantages and disadvantages of establishing a minimum alcohol sales price based on a unit of alcohol;

A. Ending practices which encourage people to buy (therefore probably consume) more than they set out to is likely to reduce over indulgence therefore is advantageous from an injury prevention perspective. Basing this on unit of alcohol would both end the practice and it would help draw attention to the actual content of a drink- a figure many people may not be aware of.

Q. The rationale behind the use of minimum pricing as an effective tool to address all types of problem drinking;

A. It may stop “binge buying” due to special offers but may not stop those who regularly consume more than recommended guidelines from doing so.

Q. Possible alternatives to the introduction of a minimum alcohol sales price as an effective means of addressing the public health issues surrounding levels of alcohol consumption in Scotland;

A. Greater advertising of the actual number of units in specific drinks to help people realise that the alcohol content varies greatly from brand to brand (wine and beers)

Q. The advantages and disadvantages of introducing a social responsibility levy on on-sales and off-sales licence holders in Scotland (e.g. pubs, clubs, off licences shops etc);

A. It is difficult to see the justification in penalising retailers for all consequences of alcohol consumption. It may cause some to increase their prices, which could be seen as a back door way of achieving minimum, pricing but for others may result in a reduction in earnings.
Q. The justification for empowering licensing boards to raise the legal alcohol purchase age in their area to 21;

A. There is little justification- Legislation should be consistent countrywide

Q. The role of promotional offers and promotional material in encouraging people to purchase more alcohol than they intended;

A. Promotional offers may encourage people to consumer more at the time of the offer however may not have a long term impact on general consumption.

Teresa Murphy
Chair
Home Safety Scotland
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