I have recently been working as a GP locum in Gibraltar. On the high street spirits are very cheap. Premium brand Scotch Whisky, eg VAT69 (at standard 40% strength), is available at £4 per litre and Gordons Gin 47.3% strength at £7.50 per litre. Alcoholism does not appear to be highly prevalent there. Minimum pricing on its own may not have much effect on reducing alcoholism and night-time alcoholic rowdyism.

Physical separation of alcohol sales at supermarkets to a totally separate building (such as is the case in Canada) might be worth trying.

Licensing hours should be re-introduced/tightened, perhaps back to pre-1976 levels. Restricted licensing hours should also apply to supermarket sales.

If minimum age is to be raised this should be done in gradual increments to sugar the pill. eg age 19 in 2011, 20 in 2012 and 21 in 2013.

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