Alcohol etc. (Scotland) Bill

Scottish Episcopal Church

On behalf of the Church in Society Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church, I write with a short submission in relation to the Alcohol Etc. (Scotland) Bill (SP Bill 34).

The Committee wished to support the principle of minimum pricing for alcohol.

However, the Committee considered that minimum pricing was not a complete solution and wished to call on the Government to address poverty which it believes is the real underlying issue. It felt that supermarket loss leaders in a sense "subsidised" poor life choices and it would support some sort of restraint regarding the deals on alcohol which the major supermarkets promote e.g. 12 cans of lager for £5.

The Committee also felt that more needed to be done on raising awareness of the cost of alcohol abuse - the personal, social, emotional and physical cost to individuals, families and communities as well as the economic costs to the Health and the Criminal Justice services. Alcohol abuse has an impoverishing effect on individuals and communities and has to be addressed at many levels.

Finally, the Committee has been privileged to have sight of the submission being made by the Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland and supports that submission.

John F Stuart
Secretary General
Scottish Episcopal Church
20 January 2010