I can now confirm that NHS Orkney considered the above Bill at our last meeting in public. Board members in considering this very important Bill had a very full and informative debate. Board members also considered the Director of Public Health’s (DPH’s) letter (attached for reference) and whilst supportive of any measures to address alcohol consumption in the younger and more deprived drinking communities were unconvinced that this single intervention on its own would have the desired impact. The Board acknowledged that the current alcohol consumption patterns are significantly damaging the health of the people of Scotland, including the people of Orkney.

The Board also in considering the above were keen to see a Bill that also acknowledged the cross cutting issues that fundamentally addressed why our young people and females in particular are consuming greater levels of alcohol.

In summary, Board members whilst not unanimous in their support of the DPH’s letter to this single approach welcomed the opportunity to actively engage further in this ongoing important discussion.

John Ross Scott
Board Chair
24 April 2010