Background to BII and BII Scotland [BII]

BII is the professional body for the licensed retail sector and we reflect the views of around 14,000 members across the UK nearly 700 in Scotland, including managers, staff, licensees and tenants from both the on and off sectors. We are also supported by 53 corporate patrons, members and supporters many of whom operate on both sides of the border and who contribute to furthering our main mission which is:

To be the professional body for the licensed retail sector in all its dimensions. To encourage new entrants and help them develop their long-term careers. To provide all our members with high quality qualifications, information, skills and business benefits to help them succeed.

BII is fully committed to actively promoting the highest possible standards throughout our industry. All our statutory members sign up to our Code of Conduct, which reinforces the professional message that we deliver.

We help to set and maintain standards through our wholly owned awarding body BIIAB, which develops and certifies a wide range of nationally-recognised qualifications specific to the licensed retail sector. These include professional courses for bar staff, kitchen staff, premises managers, licensees, door supervisors many more. All courses are delivered through a UK-wide network of training centres.

BIIAB is accredited by Ofqual and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and is the UK’s 6th largest vocational qualifications awarding body. Over 1.5 million BIIAB qualifications have been processed to date.

Specific comments on the consultation

BII welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation and on behalf of our members, we support the response submitted by the Law Society of Scotland with the following further comments.

Section 1 – Minimum Pricing – BII members are concerned with the legality of the Scottish Government’s proposals in respect of minimum pricing however should these matters be resolved BII members consider that the proposals would have the effect of reducing alcohol harm by reducing the amounts able to be accessed by hazardous drinkers.

Sections 9 and 10 - Variations of Conditions of Licence and Social Responsibility Fee – BII are concerned that these proposals permit licensing boards to impose draconian conditions and fees on licensees without said
licensees having an opportunity to be heard and without reasonable opportunities for appeal. BII members consider that these proposals could so damage those businesses on which they were imposed that there would be a great loss of business throughout the areas in which they were to be imposed to the economic harm of Scotland’s licensed trade and the hospitality and tourism industry. Our members do not consider that these proposals would in any way assist the prevention of alcohol harm.

Janet Hood, LLB Dip LP, ABII
Head of BII Scotland
26 January 2010