Alcohol etc. (Scotland) Bill
Renfrewshire Licensing Forum

In response to the issues raised in the Bill, the Forum would respond as follows:

(a) the establishment of a minimum alcohol sales price, the Forum recognised that studies had identified a correlation between the price of alcohol and consumption. However, the Forum was concerned that, depending on the minimum price, this could provide an opportunity for organised criminals to provide alcohol at a lower price; and expressed concern that those on low incomes who were dependent on alcohol would still purchase this even at a high minimum price and sacrifice other essential purchases, such as food, heating, clothing etc;

(b) the sale of alcohol to under 21s, the Forum considered the difficulties faced currently in enforcing the existing law in relation to 18 year olds, difficulties with agent purchases; and that this should remain a voluntary restriction by retailers; and

(c) promotional offers, the Forum expressed concern at the low price of alcohol in supermarkets and that this was in part influenced by supermarkets’ purchasing power with drinks manufacturers and proposed that consideration be given to a minimum wholesale price. It was also proposed that a minimum wholesale price should be raised at the National Licensing Conference to be held in September, 2010.

M Dymond
Convener
Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.
12 February 2010