



Reducing harm caused by alcohol

eFocus January 2014

Events

Cross Party Group on Drug and Alcohol Misuse

5 March, Edinburgh
AGM, presentations and discussion on 'legal highs'.
Register on [Eventbrite](#)

Addictions and the Liver conference

25 March, Motherwell
To register your interest email [Fiona McIntyre](#) or [Pamela Scott](#)

New Directions in the Study of Alcohol annual conference

23-26 April, Dundee
[More info](#)

Research

[Does legislation to prevent alcohol sales to drunk individuals work?](#)

Resources

[New Renfrewshire ADP website](#)

SSKS website
Social Services Knowledge Scotland (SSKS) has a remit to share knowledge and improve practice across the public sector. Their website features a [drug and alcohol portal](#)

[European Workplace and Alcohol Toolkit](#)

Toolkit for good practice in alcohol-related workplace interventions

AFS training

Working with children using our resources

14 February, Glasgow
[More info](#)

Personal licence

News & Policy



Court to hear minimum pricing appeal

The Scotch Whisky Association has appealed the judgement of Lord Doherty in the Judicial Review of minimum pricing. The appeal will commence at the Court of Session in Edinburgh on 4 February and is expected to run for two weeks. It could be several months before we hear the decision, adding further delay to the implementation of a policy which was passed by the Scottish Parliament in May 2012.

Public health supplement on large retailers scrapped

The Scottish Government has announced it will scrap the public health levy on large retailers which sell both alcohol and tobacco. The £95 million levy was introduced in 2012 but Finance Secretary John Swinney confirmed during a reception with retail bosses that it would not be continued after 2015. The director of the Scottish Retail Consortium said the climbdown sent a "positive signal" that the government supported a "favourable business environment". [Read more](#)

"Cosy relationship" between Westminster and drinks industry

An [investigation](#) by the BMJ has revealed the extraordinary level of access granted by the government to the alcohol industry as it successfully fought last year to kill off a minimum unit pricing policy in England and Wales. The Department of Health alone had at least 130 meetings with alcohol industry representatives. In an open [letter](#) the Alcohol Health Alliance says this information "serves to fuel fears that big business is trumping public health concerns in Westminster" and they urge the government to "stop dancing to the tune of the drinks industry".

Read liver specialist Dr Nick Sheron's [blog post](#)

Dundee has overprovision of alcohol

A [report](#) by Dundee City Alcohol & Drug Partnership for the Council's Licensing Board has found an over provision of alcohol in the city. The ADP warns the situation is taking its toll on the city's health and economy. They are calling for future licences to be refused unless applicants can show they will not contribute to the problem. Since 2009, off-sales licences in Dundee increased by 24.5% while on-sales licences went up 13.6%. [Read more](#)

Lottery funding available for recovery projects

At the [Big Lottery Fund](#), we want to support individuals to overcome substance misuse and other related, and to build a positive future for themselves. With grants of up to £1million available over five years, we can support a range of projects that help people with alcohol problems to overcome or prevent related issues such as homelessness and mental ill health. There's never been more help to apply so contact our Big Advice team on 0300 123 7110 or [email](#) if your group has an idea for funding.



Fall in number of alcohol-related GP consultations

New data for 2012/13 shows there were an estimated 94,630 alcohol-related primary care consultations by 48,420 patients, a fall from the 109,170 consultations by 57,740 patients the previous year. Consultation rates were highest for those aged 65 and over, and there were two and a half times more patients consulting for alcohol misuse in the most deprived quintile compared with the least deprived quintile. The data is available on [ScotPHO](#).

Pubs encouraged to offer 125ml wine measures

Bars and pubs across Scotland are being encouraged to increase the availability of 125ml wine measures as part of a new campaign by the Scottish Government Alcohol Industry Partnership. Public Health Minister Michael Matheson said: "A



**holder and
refresher training**

Various dates
available
[More info](#)

large glass of wine can contain over 3 units of alcohol. Clearly it is important that people have the ability to choose a smaller measure if they wish." Materials for bars to promote the 125ml measure are available [here](#).

Alcohol Focus Scotland, 166 Buchanan St, Glasgow G1 2LW

Tel: 0141 572 6700

Email: enquiries@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

Twitter [@alcoholfocus](#)

[Change your subscription details](#)