



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST LoTHIAN LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

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TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2014  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON

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### **Forum Members Present:**

George Hood (Chair)  
David Black (Secretary)  
Christine O'Brien  
Ricky Ross  
Bernard Harkins  
John Thayers  
David Dickson  
David Forrest  
PC Heather Bowsher (Police Scotland)  
Stuart Baxter

### **Council Officials Present:**

Rudi Fruzynski (LSO)

### **Visitors Present:**

There were no visitors present

### **Apologies:**

Stuart Logan  
Oskar Grodnicki  
Kirsten Baird

## **1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2014**

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Licensing Forum held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 were approved as a true record.

## **2. AIR WEAPONS AND LICENSING (SCOTLAND) BILL – IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LICENSING TRADE**

As the consultation on the Bill was due to close before the next Forum meeting in December, the members agreed to try and put together a working group to look at Bill and, if required, reply on behalf of the Forum.

## **3. LOCAL LICENSING FORUM CONSTITUTION**

After a discussion between the Forum members it was agreed that a working group would be formed to review and put forward necessary changes to the constitution.

## **4. LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICER'S REPORT**

Rudi Fruzynski reported on the following matters:

A summary of applications, requests for variations, occasional licences and transfer of licences received during July and August 2014.

Refresher Courses – All outstanding refresher courses had to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014. Anyone who failed to comply with the training within the 5 years would have their license revoked. Of the 557 letters sent out, 218 were completed with 4 licenses being surrendered. Forum Chair, George Hood, asked Mr Fruzynski to confirm whether it was the case that members whose licences were revoked could not re-apply for 5 years. Mr Fruzynski explained that this was currently under review.

Payment of annual fees - Annual fees were due by the 01/10/14. Any late fees would result in premises owners having to attend a board meeting to explain the late payment. Those who don't pay will lose their license. Mr Fruzynski asked that all licenses and holders remain up to date.

## **5. POLICE REPORT**

PC Heather Bowsher noted that due to the Commonwealth Games and other commitments there was not a great deal to report.

All new license applications to date (6) have been granted since over provision was added to Licensing Board statement of policy which states rebuttal presumption on all new license applications. It was agreed the Chair would approach the Licensing Board to seek clarification on over provision before next meeting.

National Day of Action – 6 searches were completed for legal highs, one of which was in off sales licensed premises. Two people were detained as a result of illegally informing customers how to use legal highs. A request was made to Police Scotland to make it illegal to sell legal highs in licensed premises.

PC Bowsher reported that a new rape and assault video had been proving very effective and she suggested it might worth showing at local Pubwatch meetings.

## **6. PUBWATCH/RASP – REPORTS FROM LOCAL SCHEMES**

The following matters were noted:

George Hood and Christine O'Brien would remain as Chair and Secretary (respectively) of RASP.

New ASBOs would be put in place for repeat offenders.

Two premises were to be asked to leave RASP after their continued failure to attend meetings and offer any input.

## **7. ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND**

The newsletters were taken as read.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.



Revised 21/10/2014

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East Lothian ~~Local~~ Licensing Forum

## Constitution

As last approved on 05/09/2012

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# East Lothian ~~Local~~ Licensing Forum

## Draft Constitution

1. Title
2. Introduction
3. Definitions
4. Objectives
5. Functions
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- ~~12.~~
13. Contact details

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## 1. Title

This is the Constitution of East Lothian ~~Local~~Licensing Forum.

## 2. Introduction.

The East Lothian ~~Local~~Licensing Forum ~~has been~~was established to represent the views of people concerned with the operation of the licensing systems in East Lothian. The Forum has been established in accordance with Sections 10, 11 and Schedule 2 the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. It is the role of the Forum to keep under review the operation of the licensing ~~regime~~system and the exercise of licensing powers in East Lothian and to give advice and recommendations to the East Lothian Licensing Board.

This constitution sets out how the Forum will operate. It also incorporates the Code of Practice for Forum members.

### 3. Definitions

"Act" in this constitution means the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

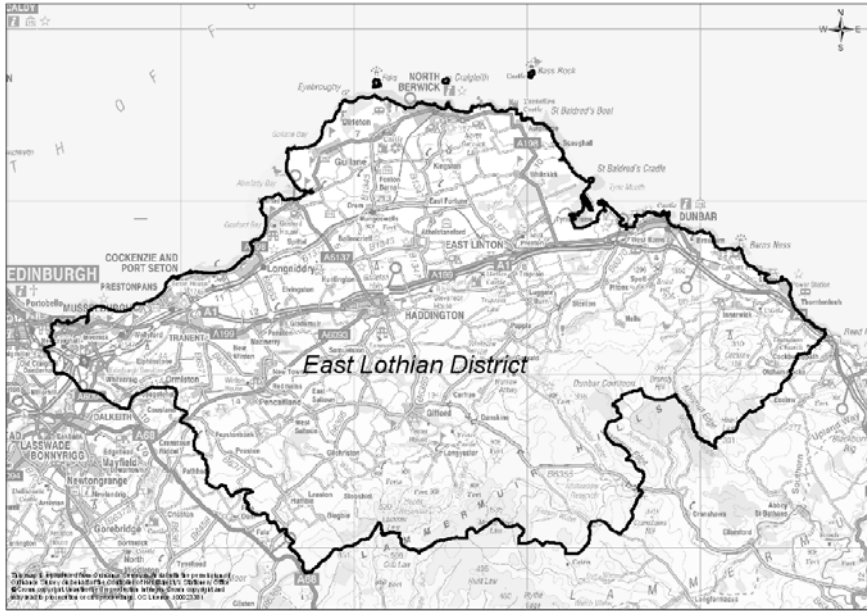
"East Lothian ~~Local~~-Licensing Forum" or "Forum" means that body established by East Lothian Council in accordance with Section 10 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

"Licensing Board" or "the Board" means the East Lothian Licensing Board.

"Licensing Standards Officer" means that person employed by East Lothian Council and qualified as required by the provisions of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

"East Lothian" means that area administered by East Lothian Council incorporated under the Local Government Etc (Scotland) Act 1994 and shown outlined in black on the plan below.





#### 4. Objectives of the East Lothian Local Licensing Forum

4.1 The Forum will identify key issues affecting licensing in East Lothian and will develop and deliver constructive advice and recommendations on how to address these.

~~4.2~~ The Forum will try to ensure that the interests of all parties affected by licensing are represented. The members of the Forum will aim to accurately and effectively represent the views of the ~~constituency-county~~ they represent.

~~4.2-4.3~~ The Forum will arrange opportunities for members to meet with people from groups or ~~constituencies-areas~~ they represent in order to discuss matters of interest and ascertain ~~the-local~~ views ~~of their constituents~~.

~~4.3~~ 4.4 The Forum will establish an identity that is clearly separate from the Licensing Board. The Forum will strive to build trust with license holders and the Licensing Board by giving impartial and effective advice and practical recommendations to the Board.

4.5 The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 lists the licensing objectives as;<sup>1</sup>

1. preventing crime and disorder
2. securing public safety
3. preventing public nuisance
4. protecting and improving public health
5. protecting children from harm

The Licensing Board is required to promote these objectives through their policies and decisions. The Forum will be

<sup>1</sup> Section 4 Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

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consulted by the Licensing Board when it formulates or reviews Licensing Board Policy statements.

## 5. Functions

5.1 The Forum will keep under review the operation of the liquor licensing ~~regime-systems~~ and the exercise of licensing powers in East Lothian and ~~to~~ give advice and make recommendations to the Board.

5.2 The Forum will give advice and make recommendations to East Lothian Licensing Board in relation to any matters of policy and other areas of concern that the Forum considers appropriate.

5.3 The Forum cannot review, give advice concerning, or make recommendations in relation to the exercise of the Board's power in any particular case or regarding the Board's consideration of any individual application.<sup>2</sup>

5.4 Forum members will take active steps to maintain regular contact with the ~~constituency-area~~ they represent. The Forum will arrange public meetings to allow members to meet their constituents. The Forum may also pursue such other methods to ascertain local views, as they feel appropriate.

5.5 The Forum will take all reasonable steps to encourage people to make their views known to Forum members. This could include publicising agendas and minutes, publishing contact details using the local press or distributing leaflets. The Forum will also provide opportunities for people to discuss matters of interest with Forum members.

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<sup>2</sup> Section 11(2) Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

5.6 Members of East Lothian ~~Local~~-Licensing Forum are appointed to represent the views ~~of a constituency~~their locality. It is inappropriate for any member to use the Forum to express their own views, pursue their own enthusiasms or resolve personal issues. Unless they have been specifically appointed to represent that organisation, members of the Forum are not to express or promote the views of any organisation of which they are also a member.

5.7 The Forum is entitled, on request, to be provided with copies of any statistical information provided to the Licensing Board for the purpose of preparing a licensing policy statement or supplementary statement.

## 6. Membership

6.1 The membership will never be less than 5 or more than 21. The number of members will be subject to review by East Lothian Council.

**Comment [f1]:** Under the Alcohol Etc (Scotland) Act 2010 the number was increased to 21.

**Comment [f2]:** There is no head of Law and Licensing any longer.

6.2 In order to be eligible for membership of the Forum, a person must be:-

- a) aged 18 years or above;
- b) able to demonstrate an interest in the licensing system;
- c) currently employed in or be a duly appointed representative of one or more of the following groups, namely:-

**Comment [WU3]:** Schedule 2 of the Act makes no reference to the age a member must be, but does say that membership would benefit from the inclusion of young persons!

- Persons resident within East Lothian
- Holders of premises licences and personal licences
- The Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders
- Persons having functions relating to health, education or social work.
- Young people

6.3 Where there is a gap in representation of one of the above groups representative organisations may be approached to nominate a suitable person.

6.4 A Licensing Standards Officer will be appointed by East Lothian Council as a statutory member of the Forum.

6.5 Except in respect of the Licensing Standards Officer, Members will be appointed for a period of 2 years and East Lothian Council will review membership after this point. Members are eligible for reselection provided they meet the criteria in 6.2.

6.6 Any gaps in the membership of the Forum will be filled with reference to the same criteria in 6.2.

Members are expected to make every effort to attend meetings. However, should they be unable to attend they should intimate their apologies to the Convenor prior to the meeting. The member may nominate a substitute to take their place and express their views.

6.7 Members who fail to attend 3 consecutive meetings without good reason will be automatically removed from the list of members.

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## 7. Convenor and Secretary

- 7.1 At its first meeting in each calendar year the Forum will elect a Convenor and Secretary from its members. Any member of the Forum may put themselves forward for election as Convenor or Secretary. Both the Convenor and Secretary shall hold office until the first meeting in the following calendar year unless they resign or are dismissed.
- 7.2 If the Convenor is not present at any meeting, or is unable to act for any reason, the meeting may be chaired by any other member present.
- 7.3 The Convenor is responsible for ensuring that meetings are conducted in an orderly fashion. The Convenor should also regulate the discussion so that everyone has a chance to speak while ensuring that all agenda items are discussed in the allotted time. It is part of the Convenor's role to prevent an individual from dominating the discussion and to encourage more reticent members of the Forum to speak up.
- 7.4 The Convenor should monitor how well the Forum is working as a group. The Convenor may set aside time on an occasional basis to allow discussion of how the Forum is working and how members feel they are progressing.
- 7.5 If the Convenor is unable to attend a meeting of the Forum he or she must intimate his or her apologies to the Secretary or [to a member of the Council's Licensing, Administration and Democratic Services](#). The Convenor may nominate a substitute to attend in their place and express their views. The Forum

should nominate one of the usual members to act as Convenor for that meeting.

## 8. Meetings.

8.1 The Forum will have a minimum of four meetings per calendar year.

8.2 The Forum will meet with the Licensing Board at least once in each calendar year.

8.3 All Forum meetings will be held in public and will be open to the press.

8.4 Meetings should be fixed by the Forum in consultation with East Lothian Council in order to ensure that appropriate facilities are available.

8.5 Intimation of the date, time and place of meetings, the agenda and any connected papers will normally be issued to the Forum members by the Secretary not less than fourteen days before the date of the meeting. The Secretary should ensure that public notice of Forum meetings will be published on East Lothian Licensing Forum's website normally at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

**Comment [f4]:** Fourteen days is much more practical and gives members the opportunity to complete any actions/research allocated to them etc.

8.6 The quorum for any meeting of the Forum is not less than one half its members and in any case no fewer than three. The proceedings will not be invalidated by any vacancy in the membership.

**Comment [f5]:** An audit requires to establish exactly who are current members of the Forum in order that an accurate figure is available to determine what is a quorum.

8.7 If a quorum is not present ten minutes after the meeting was due to start the meeting must be adjourned and rescheduled for a date not sooner than two weeks from the date of the adjournment. It will be recorded in the minute that the meeting was adjourned and no business was transacted due to the lack of the necessary quorum.

8.8 In making any decision the Forum should vote upon a proposal. Each member of the Forum, or their substitute, will have one vote with the **Convenor having a casting vote** in the event of a tie. Voting will usually be by show of hands. The Forum may use a secret ballot where it decides this is more appropriate. The secret ballot should only be used in exceptional circumstances.

**Comment [WU6]:** The Convenor has his own vote then in the event of a tied vote he/she has a further casting vote

8.9 All members may put forward suggestions for agenda items. The Convenor is responsible for establishing a mechanism whereby members may table items for discussion.

8.10 The Secretary shall keep a minute of every meeting of the Forum. These minutes should include;

- The names of members in attendance;
- Any apologies intimated to the convenor or secretary;
- A brief note of topics dealt with;
- A record of all decisions taken by the Forum.

8.11 The Secretary shall send a copy of the minute of the previous meeting to all members fourteen days in advance of the next meeting.

8.12 Minutes of the previous meeting should be approved as a correct record at the next meeting. The agenda may not be



closed before the minute or the amendment thereof is agreed by majority vote.

8.13 The Secretary shall lodge a copy of the minutes of each meeting with East Lothian Council.

8.14 East Lothian Council will provide facilities to assist members in carrying out their duties. This may involve access to administrative support and the use of Council premises for meetings. Such facilities must only be used in carrying out Forum duties.

## **9 Special Meetings**

9.1 A Special Meeting of the Forum can be called at any time by the Convener or by requisition of a majority of the members of the Forum. Such a request to hold a Special Meeting will be in writing and the Convener will determine the date and place of the Special Meeting.

## **10. Conduct of members.**

10.1 Members must respect all other members of the Forum, members of the Licensing Board and all East Lothian Council employees and the role each plays, treating them with courtesy at all times. Members should also be courteous to any members of the public or press present during Forum meetings.

10.2 All members must comply with rulings from the Convener in the conduct of the business of the Forum.

10.3 Members should strive to be open about their decisions, giving reasons for those decisions.

10.4 Members are accountable for the Forum's decisions and actions to the public. They have a duty to consider issues on their merits, taking account of the views of the people the members represent, and must ensure that the advice given or recommendations made reflect the views of their constituents localities in so far as is possible.

## **11. Resignation and dismissal.**

11.1 Members wishing to resign their appointment may do so in writing, giving four weeks notice, to the Council's Service Manager – Licensing, Administration and Democratic Services and the Convenor.

11.2 Where it is put to the Forum that one of their members has acted contrary to the provisions of this constitution, or in such a manner so as to bring the Forum into disrepute, they may by majority vote recommend dismissal of that member to East Lothian Council.

11.3 In voting regarding the recommendation of dismissal of a member, each member of the Forum will have one vote with the Convenor having a casting vote in the event of a tie. Where it is the Convenor who is the subject of the vote the Forum should agree a substitute for the purposes of this vote. The Forum should use the secret ballot procedure for these votes.

11.4 Where the Forum agrees to dismiss a member that member will immediately lose the right to attend Forum meetings except where attending as a member of the public. The Convenor should inform the Council's Service Manager – Licensing, Administration and Democratic Services of the decision as soon as practicable.

## 12. Alterations to Constitution and powers to make or amend rules.

12.1 The Forum shall have the power to alter the constitution of the Forum and to make or amend rules relating to the conduct and administration of the Forum at any of its meetings or at a Special Meeting convened for such purpose provided due intimation of such proposed alteration shall have been sent to each member at least fourteen days before such meeting. All such alterations require to be approved by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. The Forum shall not be permitted to alter the Constitution if such alteration would conflict with the terms of the Act.

## 13. Contact Details.

[Website: www.eastlothianlicensingforum.co.uk](http://www.eastlothianlicensingforum.co.uk)

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### Licensing, Administration and Democratic Services

Kirstie MacNeill  
Clerk to East Lothian Licensing Board  
East Lothian Council  
John Muir House  
Haddington

EH41 3HA

Tel: [01620 827164](tel:01620827164)

Email: [kmacneill@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:kmacneill@eastlothian.gov.uk)

**Administrative Support**

[Fiona Currie](#)

[Committees Assistant](#)

[Licensing, Administration and Democratic Services](#)

[East Lothian Council](#)

John Muir House

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EH41 3HA

Tel: 01620 827586

Email: [meetings@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:meetings@eastlothian.gov.uk)



Reducing harm caused by alcohol

eFocus August 2014

## Events

### Alcohol Health Alliance Day of Action

5 September  
[www.21billion.org](http://www.21billion.org)

### FASD Seminar

11 September, Manchester  
FASD: What do we know, what more can we do?

[More information](#)

### National Licensing Conference

7 October, Edinburgh  
This year's theme is the public interest purpose of licensing.

[Book your place](#)

### NHS Grampian Substance Misuse Symposium

9 October, Aberdeen  
Exhibition and Conference Centre

[More information](#)

### Alcohol Concern conference

19 November, London  
Taking back our health and high streets

[More information](#)

## Research

### [Developing cancer warnings for alcoholic beverages](#)

[Favourite alcohol advertisements and binge drinking among adolescents: a cross-cultural cohort study](#)

[Assessing restrictiveness of national alcohol marketing policies](#)

[Adolescent alcohol use: a reflection of national drinking patterns and policy?](#)

## AFS

**Licensing training**  
In the next few

## News & Policy

### Analysis of licensing policy statements - new report

Alcohol Focus Scotland's analysis of twenty five licensing policy statements found that while some progress has been made in how boards are controlling the availability of alcohol, the licensing process is too removed from the people and neighbourhoods most affected by their decisions. Our [report](#) calls on licensing boards, local authorities and the Scottish Government to do more to protect communities from alcohol harm.



[Using licensing to protect public health: from evidence to practice](#) - Alcohol Research UK funded our 2 year programme of work to facilitate effective working between public health and licensing. This included the production of a [licensing toolkit](#).

### Have you pledged your support? #mupsaveslives

As the European Court of Justice considers Scotland's case to implement minimum unit pricing, SHAAP (Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems) is asking you to support this important policy which will reduce harm and save lives in Scotland. [Register your support online](#)

### [Minimum pricing: the facts](#)

### 1000 under-age drinkers a year taken to hospital

Figures published in [the Herald](#) reveal almost 1,000 under 18s are taken to hospital each year following alcohol-related incidents in Scotland. The Scottish Ambulance Service said that while the numbers affected by alcohol have fallen slightly over the past three years, the reality is actually far worse as alcohol and drug-related incidents are under-reported. Alcohol Focus Scotland said the figures underlined the need to introduce minimum unit pricing.



### Alcohol-related deaths increase by 2% from 2012-13

In 2013, 1,100 people in Scotland died because of alcohol, compared with 1,080 the previous year.

- 741 alcohol-related deaths were males
- 359 alcohol-related deaths were females
- 472 deaths were in the 45-59 age group
- 164 people under the age of 45 died because of alcohol

More details, including figures for NHS Board and Council areas, from [GRO Scotland](#)

### Alcoholic drinks should carry health warnings

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Alcohol Misuse has recommended health warnings should be introduced to combat problem drinking. Their [Manifesto 2015](#) says: "Health warnings are a familiar and prominent feature on all tobacco products. In order to inform consumers about balanced risk, every alcohol label should include an evidence-based health warning as well as describing the product's nutritional and calorific content." The Group are also calling for minimum unit pricing, a reduction in the drink-drive limit, and strengthening of the regulations around alcohol marketing.

### Quality principles for Scottish drug and alcohol services

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months, AFS is running courses for personal licence holders, Licensing Board members and Licensing Standards Officers.  
[Find out more](#)

#### AGM

Alcohol Focus Scotland's [AGM](#) will take place on Wednesday 17 September at 10.30am.

#### Hire our meeting rooms

We have rooms available to hire at reasonable rates for meetings, training sessions or other events. Please [contact us](#) for details.

The Scottish Government has published [The Quality Principles: Standard Expectations of Care and Support in Drug and Alcohol Services](#).

The principles have been developed to ensure anyone looking to address their problem drug and/or alcohol use receives high-quality treatment and support that assists long-term, sustained recovery and keeps them safe from harm.



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#### Alcohol tax urged to fund rehab services

A 'treatment tax' should be added to the cost of alcohol in shops to fund a new generation of rehabilitation centres, a new report from the think tank the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), says. The CSJ, which seeks to tackle poverty and its causes, wants the government to fund treatment centres for 58,000 addicts per year by 2024. The 'penny on a unit' proposal is among a number of measures recommended to tackle addiction in the [Ambitious for Recovery report](#).

Alcohol Focus Scotland, 166 Buchanan St, Glasgow G1 2LW  
Tel: 0141 572 6700  
Email: [enquiries@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk)  
[www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk](http://www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk)  
Twitter [@alcoholfocus](#)

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## Events

### National Licensing Conference

7 October, George Hotel, Edinburgh  
There's still time to book your place!

[More info](#)

### 4th National Recovery Conference

10-11 November, Glasgow

[More info](#)

### Cross Party Group on Drug and Alcohol Misuse

18 November, Scottish Parliament  
The meeting will discuss support for families affected by alcohol.

[More info](#)

## Research

[Delivering alcohol identification and brief advice \(IBA\): broadening the base from health to non-health contexts](#)

[First drink to first drunk: Age of onset and delay to intoxication are associated with adolescent alcohol use and binge drinking](#)

## AFS

### Annual Report 2013-14

Read our annual report for the year ended 31 March 2014.

## News & Policy



### Minimum pricing update

An event was organised by SHAAP and Eurocare in Brussels earlier this month to discuss Scotland's minimum unit pricing policy. View [presentations](#) and a [video](#) from the event. Scotland's case is being considered by the European Court of Justice and member states and the European Commission have until around 21 October to submit their views on the measure.

In its 2015 [Manifesto](#), the BMA is asking all political parties to take decisive action to reduce the affordability and availability of alcohol. As a first step, they want to see a minimum unit price of no less than 50p introduced.

Have you [pledged your support](#) for minimum pricing? [#mupsaveslives](#)

### Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill

The consultation on this Bill has now closed and responses have been published on the Scottish Government [website](#). Alcohol Focus Scotland is supportive of the Bill's licensing proposals but we are calling for mechanisms to further improve licensing boards' transparency and accountability. Read our [submission](#)

### 7000 children in Edinburgh have problem drinking parents

Efforts to tackle alcohol harm in Edinburgh are being stepped up as it was revealed more than 7000 children are living with parents who drink too much and alcohol is costing the city more than £221 million each year. Leading figures from the city council, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland and other public bodies have vowed to make it a key priority for the next three years. [Read more](#)



### Substance misuse support for families

The Scottish Government has announced £120,000 funding for a package of support measures for families in rural areas affected by drugs and alcohol. It will be given to provide a small grants scheme for recovery programmes in local communities through the Lloyds PDI. Additional funding

has also been given for a new National Alcohol Liaison Officer within [Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs](#), and for a pilot technology project to help families access services in rural and remote settings. [Read more](#)

### Alcohol, domestic abuse and sexual assault links highlighted

A new report from the Institute of Alcohol Studies has highlighted the strong relationship between alcohol and domestic abuse, physical violence and sexual assault. It calls for action to be taken to protect vulnerable groups from alcohol-fuelled violence and for a better understanding of the role alcohol plays for victims of abuse and assault. Read the [report](#)

### A fifth of prisoners wait for help with addiction problems

An inspection at HMP Greenock has found a "lack of an overall strategy" in dealing with drug and alcohol addiction. The report said 47 inmates were on the waiting list for a drug and alcohol treatment service, a programme which had not had a waiting list in the past. A spokeswoman for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde said they were developing a new model for addictions

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services incorporating the service provided by Phoenix Futures and the service provided by their own clinical staff. [Read more](#)



**Public health organisations call on the European Commission to label alcoholic drinks**

Alcoholic beverages were exempt from legislation passed in 2011 requiring food and soft drinks to include nutritional information and ingredients on their labels. Mariann Skar, Secretary General of [Eurocare](#) said: "It is really perplexing that European decision makers refused consumers the right to know what is in their drinks. We are awaiting the European Commission report that it is obliged to produce on alcohol labelling by December this year and call on the Commission to bring alcohol packaging in line with non-alcoholic beverage packaging."

Alcohol Focus Scotland, 166 Buchanan St, Glasgow G1 2LW  
Tel: 0141 572 6700  
Email: [enquiries@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk)  
[www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk](http://www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk)  
Twitter [@alcoholfocus](#)

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## Training

### Working with children using our resources

10 February 2015, Glasgow.

Training workshop for practitioners supporting children and families affected by parental drinking.

[Read more](#)

### Personal Licence Holder and Refresher training

Dates have been set for our licensing training courses in 2015. [Read more](#)

## Events

### Cross Party Group on Drug and Alcohol Misuse

Wednesday 19 November, Scottish Parliament.

The theme will be "What support is available for families affected by alcohol?" [Register](#)

### National Licensing Conference 2014

Presentations can now be viewed on our [website](#).

## Research

[White cider consumption and heavy drinkers: a low cost option but an unknown price](#)

## News & Policy

### Scotland to reduce drink-drive limit in time for festive period

Subject to approval, a reduced drink-drive limit will come into effect in Scotland on 5 December 2014. The blood alcohol limit will be reduced from 80mg in 100ml of blood, to 50mg, bringing Scotland into line with most other European countries. A multi-media marketing campaign to raise awareness of the new lower limit will be launched in the coming weeks. [Read more](#)



### More premises = more health harm in neighbourhoods

A new study commissioned by AFS and undertaken by researchers at [CRESH](#) has found neighbourhoods in Scotland with the most licensed premises have alcohol-related death rates more than double those in neighbourhoods with the fewest. Researcher Dr Liz Richardson said: "The strong relationship we found between alcohol outlets and related health outcomes leads us to suggest that reducing outlet numbers, particularly in the highest availability neighbourhoods, could have health benefits for the Scottish population."

[Read the report](#)

### Edinburgh Licensing Board convener under fire again

A senior police officer has criticised Councillor Eric Milligan, accusing him of "failing" in his responsibility. The former Lord Provost has repeatedly denied there is a direct link between the number of licensed premises concentrated in an area and levels of alcohol-related health and crime issues. [Read more](#)

### Liver cancer deaths increase in Scotland

Male death rates from liver cancer increased by 40% between 2003 and 2013, attributable largely to alcohol and infection with hepatitis B and C. Liver cancer is the 7th most common cause of death from cancer in Scotland.

[Read more](#)

### [Alcohol and Cancer Risks: A Guide for Health Professionals](#)

### EU alcohol strategy

Dr Evelyn Gillan was questioned at the House of Lords this week as part of their inquiry into the EU alcohol strategy. The previous strategy expired in 2012 and the interim EU Alcohol Action Plan has a narrow focus on young people and binge drinking. We are calling for a new comprehensive strategy that would include policies to reduce overall consumption and harm across Europe. [Read more](#)

### Finland backs Scottish minimum unit pricing

The Finnish government has given its support to the Scottish Government's plans to introduce minimum unit pricing. Ismo Tuominen, Head of Alcohol Policy at the Finnish Ministry of Health said: "This is a question of principle. If a nation wants to have its own decisions concerning public health and concerning alcohol policy, we are at the same side of that nation." [Read more](#)



### Children treated for alcohol-related illness and injury

Up to 225 children under the age of 10 have been treated for alcohol-related illness or injury in the last three years, according to figures sourced from health boards by the Scottish Liberal Democrats.

[Read more](#)

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### Designated place in Aberdeen given year's reprieve

Albyn House, a safe space for people who are found drunk on the streets of Aberdeen, had been under threat of funding cuts earlier this year. The service provides a bed and support for around 800 people a year. Aberdeen City ADP, of which NHS Grampian and Police Scotland are members, has offered funding to keep the centre open for another year. [Read more](#)

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### Civil service chief resigns from alcohol industry job

Alcohol Focus Scotland was one of more than 70 signatories to an open letter expressing our concern around the decision to allow John Mazoni, the new CEO of the Civil Service to remain as a non-executive director at SAB Miller. He will step down from the role next summer. [Read more](#)

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