

# Notice of Meeting and Agenda Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 12 September 2022	14:00	Remotely by MS Teams,

MARK CONAGHAN  
Head of Corporate Governance

## Membership

C Cardosi; C Dickson; M Dymond; F Hewitt; S McLean; J McSorley; T Mills; F Moore-McGrath; P Pieraccini; D Reid; I Robertson.

## Convener

J McSorley, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership.

## Recording of Meeting

This meeting will be recorded for subsequent broadcast via the Council's website. If you have any queries regarding the recording please contact Committee Services on 01416187103.

To find the recording please follow the link which will be attached to this agenda once the meeting as been concluded.

## Items of business

### Apologies

Apologies from members.

### Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

- |           |  |                |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Minute of Previous Meeting</b>                                      | <b>1 - 4</b>   |
|           | Minute of previous meeting held on 23 May 2022                         |                |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Matters Arising</b>   |                |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Police Scotland Update</b>  |                |
|           | Verbal update by Police Scotland on local licensing issues.            |                |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Licensing Standards Officer - Update</b>                            |                |
|           | Verbal report by Licensing Standards Officer on local licensing issues |                |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Renfrewshire Alcohol Related Deaths</b>                             |                |
|           | Verbal report by Convener.   |                |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Renfrewshire Licensing Policy Statement</b>                         |                |
|           | Verbal report by Convener  |                |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Action Plan Update</b>  | <b>5 - 8</b>   |
|           | Report by Convener   |                |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Local Licensing Forum Survey</b>                                    | <b>9 - 10</b>  |
|           | Survey by Scottish Government/Alcohol Focus Scotland                   |                |
| <b>9a</b> | <b>Newsletter - June 2022</b>  | <b>11 - 22</b> |
|           | Newsletter by Alcohol Focus Scotland                                   |                |
| <b>9b</b> | <b>Newsletter - July 2022</b>  | <b>23 - 30</b> |
|           | Newsletter by Alcohol Focus Scotland                                   |                |
| <b>9c</b> | <b>Newsletter - August 2022</b>  | <b>31 - 42</b> |
|           | Newsletter by Alcohol Focus Scotland                                   |                |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Recovery Walk Scotland</b>  |                |
|           | Verbal report by Convener  |                |

## **11 Future Meetings**

**43 - 46**

Report by Clerk



## Minute of Meeting

### Renfrewshire Licensing Forum.

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 23 May 2022	14:00	Remotely by MS Teams,

#### PRESENT

C Cardosi; M Dymond; F Moore-McGrath; J McSorley; P Pieraccini and D Reid.

#### IN ATTENDANCE

D Campbell, Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing); P Shiach, Senior Committee Services Officer and J Barron, Assistant Committee Services Officer (all Finance & Resources).

#### CHAIR

J McSorley, Convener, presided.

#### RECORDING OF MEETING

Prior to the commencement of the meeting members were advised that this meeting of the Policy Board would be recorded and would be available to view on the Council's website.

#### APOLOGIES

S McLean and T Mills

#### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

The Convener indicated his intention to take additional items of business which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Area Convener, being of the opinion that the items which were dealt with at items 7, 8 and 9 respectively of the agenda were competent and relevant, authorised their consideration.

### **1 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

There was submitted the Minute of the previous meeting of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum held on 28 February 2022.

**DECIDED:** That the Minute be approved.

### **2 MATTERS ARISING**

**DECIDED:** That it be noted that there were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

### **3 POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE**

Constable Moore-McGrath, Police Scotland, provided a verbal update on local licensing issues which had arisen since the previous meeting, advising that Police Scotland had attended 91 incidents within licenced premises during the period, and had undertaken 183 pro-active inspections.

She advised that there were no issues arising from these visits and no matters which required to be reported to the Licensing Board.

She further advised that if the Pub Watch scheme was reintroduced, Police Scotland would be keen to attend any meetings and share information. J McSorley indicated that he would be interested in attending meetings of the Pubwatch scheme. C Cardosi advised that the scheme was still running and was chaired by J Smith from the Gantry. She indicated that she would email the chair of the scheme on behalf of Forum Members who wished to be involved

**DECIDED:** That the report be noted.

### **4 LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICER UPDATE**

In the absence of the Licensing Standards Officer, the Convener indicated that he would ask the LSO for a written report which he would subsequently circulate to the Forum. This was agreed unanimously.

**DECIDED:** That the Convener obtain a written update from the LSO for circulation to the Forum Members.

### **5 LICENSING ISSUES SUB-GROUP UPDATE**

The Convener provided a verbal report the Licensing Issues Sub-group, indicating that some of the planned meetings had been postponed due to illness, however those which had taken place had been positive.

He indicated that the issues discussed had included more frequent communication between the Licensing Forum and the Licensing Board; updates on best practice in relation to the five Licensing Objectives of the Board; raising the profile of the Forum and linking in with the press to provide information on its activities; the introduction of short-life working groups to look at issues which might arise; and the new Licensing Policy Statement and how the Forum can input into this. He further advised that following his meeting with all the Forum members, he would formulate an Action Plan for the Forum's approval.

Discussion followed in relation to the potential local training for Board members in addition to national training provided by Alcohol Focus Scotland and linking up with Paisley 1st in relation to training. The Assistant Managing Solicitor (Licensing) indicated that these issues could be raised with the new Board Convener once the post was filled at the next meeting of the Board in June.

The Convener proposed that he would write to the new Board Convener, once appointed, to indicate that the Forum would encourage of a training event and would be amenable to facilitating this. This was agreed unanimously.

**DECIDED:** The Convener write to the new Board Convener, once appointed, to indicate that the Forum would be encouraging of a training event and would be amenable to facilitating this.

## 6 **ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND**

There was submitted the Alcohol Focus Scotland newsletter for March 2022.

The newsletter provided updates on evidence to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee; drug and alcohol services; youth engagement and alcohol marketing; AFS response to EU labelling consultation.

The newsletter also provided updates on the Human Rights Consortium Scotland response to the Human Rights Act Reform Consultation; and research into MUP and cross-border purchases; the marketing and consumption of no and low alcohol products in the UK; and the Cross-Party Group on Improving Scotland's Health

**DECIDED:** That the newsletter be noted.

## 7 **ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK**

The Convener advised that the annual Alcohol Awareness week had been moved from November and would now take place between 3 and 9 July 2022.

**DECIDED:** That the information be noted.

## 8 **ANNUAL NATIONAL RECOVERY WALK**

D Reid advised that Paisley had been selected to host the Annual National Recovery Walk in September. She undertook to provide the Forum with further information once it becomes available.

**DECIDED:** That the information be noted.

9 **ALCOHOL RELATED DEATHS**

D Reid advised the Forum that the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership was in the process of recruiting an Alcohol Related Deaths worker to undertake an audit of alcohol related deaths. She indicated that the worker was not yet in post but would be invited to a future meeting of the Forum to update members on the audit findings.

**DECIDED:** That the information be noted.

10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**DECIDED:** Members noted that the next meeting of Renfrewshire Licensing Forum was scheduled to be held at 2pm on 12 September 2022.



## **Renfrewshire Licensing Forum**

### **Work Plan**

#### **Background**

Local authorities are required to establish a local licensing forum (the Forum), the purpose of which is to keep under review the operation of the Act in the Forum's area and, in particular the exercise by the Licensing Board of its functions.

The Forum is required to provide such advice and make such representations to the Licensing Board in relation to those matters as the Forum considers appropriate

Renfrewshire Council has agreed that the licensing forum for the Renfrewshire area will have 12 members consisting of the following:

- 1 x Licensing Standards Officer
- 1 x Police Scotland representative
- 1 x Young Person representative
- 3 x Licensed Trade representatives
- 2 x Health Board representatives (including Alcohol & Drug Partnership)
- 1 x Children's Services representative

3 x Local Resident representatives

It is the job of the forum to review the licensing board in the area and to provide it with feedback. Specifically, the law states the forum's role is to:

- **Review:** “keeping under review the operation of this Act [The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005] in the forum's area, and, in particular, the exercise by the relevant licensing board or boards of their functions”, and
- **Advise:** “giving such advice and making such recommendations to that... board in relation to those matters as the forum considers appropriate.”

**This does not include reviewing or offering recommendations in relation to individual applications or cases, which the law prohibits.**

This action plan is a summary of actions the forum have agreed to deliver in order to ensure it is fulfilling its role.

The Licensing Forum will use the “RAG Rating System” and is defined as follows –

- **Red** – not on target and has unmet work which poses a significant risk to service delivery
- **Amber** – requires remedial action to get back on track and specific actions need identified within the plan with short timescales where possible
- **Green** – On track for timescale set and requiring sustained input to complete

Action	Lead	Target completion date	Progress	Measure of success/evidence	RAG
Ensure the group has appropriate membership	Chair	Reviewed regularly	Working to recruit Young Person representation	Regularly quorate group and all member role positions filled	
Licensing Policy Review	All	Sept 22-October 23	Review schedule to be confirmed by Board	Ensure involvement as per timetable set by Licensing board	
Increase group knowledge around Licensing Objectives	Chair	Ongoing		Regular updates from specialists	
Review Licensing Board annual functions report		Annually		Report to be included as an agenda item for discussion at forum meeting after receipt.  Forum will make recommendations regarding the content/format of report, and any matters arising.  A copy of the report will be provided to all members in advance of the meeting.	
Gather evidence of how alcohol and licensing policy and practice is impacting on local communities.	All	Ongoing	Evidence and intelligence to be included as standing item on agenda	To commence from next meeting to allow all to have opportunity to gather information – forum can ask for relevant data from partners including refusal books review etc	
Renfrewshire Alcohol Information Event	Chair	tbc		a multi partner information event for Licensing Board members, to provide local intelligence and	

Action	Lead	Target completion date	Progress	Measure of success/evidence	RAG
				service feedback on how best to tackle alcohol related issues with a view to preventing crime and disorder, securing public safety, preventing public nuisance, protecting and improving public health and protecting children from harm.	
Monitor the use of occasional licences and make Recommendations as appropriate	All	Annually		e.g. regarding types of uses and number granted overall and to individual premises	

### **Local Licensing Forum Survey (June 2022)**

The Scottish Government is working with Alcohol Focus Scotland to undertake a short survey of local licensing board forums / local councils to identify current levels of forum activity. We are also keen to hear about what is working well and any suggestions of how forums could be better supported or improved.

We are asking a representative from each forum, or a relevant council officer if the forum is inactive, to provide **one response** to an **online** version of this survey available at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LJJG6HD>

The survey will be live for three months and we would encourage that the questions below are discussed at a forum meeting prior to the answers being submitted online.

### **Questions contained in online survey**

- 1) Which local authority are you in?
- 2) Is the forum currently active?
  - If 'no', please only answer questions 3-6
  - If 'yes', please only answer questions 7-12
- 3) Please describe the main reasons that the forum is inactive
- 4) Are there currently any plans to reactivate the forum? Please use the space below to provide further information
- 5) Please use this space to provide any suggestions of how forums could be supported/improved
- 6) Please use this space to provide any general comments you would like to make about forums
- 7) Approximately how many times has the forum met in the previous 12 months
- 8) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the forum?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Forum members have a good understanding of their role and remit						
The forum has clear aims/objectives						
The forum has developed a workplan						
The Licensing Board takes the forum's views into account						
There is good communication between the forum and Licensing Board						
The forum has sufficient resources						

The forum receives support and input from local agencies						
The forum meets regularly						
The forum has a good level of membership retention						

9) Overall, how would you describe the current effectiveness of the forum in relation to the following:

	Very effective	Fairly effective	Not effective
Keeping under review the operation of the licensing system in the area			
Giving advice and recommendations to the Licensing Board			

10) Please indicate how many of each 'category' of forum member is represented on your forum (please allocate each member to only one category in order to avoid any double counting).

N.B: If a member belongs to more than one category, please add them to the category that best represents their key reason for attending the forum e.g., a licence holder who is also a resident should only be included within the licence holder category.

Category	LSO	Health Board	Licence holder	Police	Health (other)	Education	Social work	Young people	Residents	Other
Number										

If you have members within the 'other' category, please provide details

11) Please use this space to provide any suggestions of how forums could be supported/improved

12) Please use this space to provide any general comments you would like to make about forums



## Realising our rights: How to protect people from alcohol marketing

Alcohol Focus Scotland and the international Alcohol Marketing Expert Network are calling for countries to introduce statutory restrictions on how alcohol is marketed, following the launch of their new report.

The report presents evidence of the impact of alcohol marketing on people with or at risk of an alcohol problem, children and young people, and the general population.

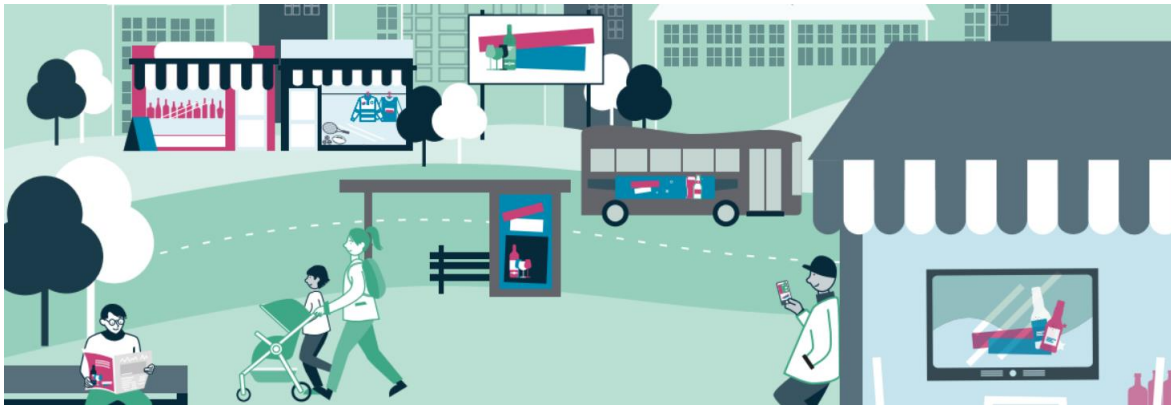
Drawing on international experiences from countries who already have restrictions, the Network makes recommendations for how countries can best regulate alcohol marketing, as well as how these can apply in Scotland. The Network's recommendations cover action across the full 'marketing mix' including promotion and advertising, product packaging, the retail environment and pricing.

At a well-attended launch event, members of the expert network, Professor Sally Casswell of Massey University, New Zealand, and Tom Bennett of the Scottish Recovery Consortium, summarised the evidence on the need for change and the real-life impact marketing restrictions could have on people in recovery.



**[Find out more from AFS.](#)**

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## Scottish Government MUP review underway

Earlier this week Maree Todd, Minister for Public Health announced that a review of the level of the minimum unit price is now underway.

The Minister said “A review of the current level of 50p per unit was delayed by the pandemic. This extensive exercise is now underway and I can confirm that it will be completed in late 2023.

“It is intended that any new price would come into effect from May 1, 2024, subject to parliamentary scrutiny and approval.”

Alcohol Focus Scotland welcome the announcement and urge the Scottish Government to increase the minimum price to at least 65 pence per unit. Alison Douglas, chief executive said, “This would not only account for inflation since the Parliament approved the policy ten years ago, but also set it at a level that will save more lives and prevent a new generation from developing a problematic relationship with alcohol.”

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## **New NCD Prevention Report: Mapping Future Harm**

Three in five people (62%) in Scotland would welcome restrictions on alcohol advertising, sponsorship and promotions online, in public spaces and at sport and cultural events.

The NCD Prevention Coalition, made up of AFS and 8 other leading health charities, has published a new report showing the support and urgency for action to tackle preventable deaths from non-communicable diseases in Scotland.

Laura Mahon, Deputy Chief Executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland, said: “To make a concrete difference to people’s health we need evidence-based solutions. Introducing restrictions on how and where alcohol can be marketed, alongside increasing the minimum unit price to at least 65p would save and improve lives, particularly for those living in our poorest communities who feel the negative effects most.”

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 [Read the briefing and report.](#)



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## POLICY

### **No place for cheap alcohol: the potential value of minimum pricing for protecting lives**

Well-chosen pricing policies can help countries lower alcohol consumption and harms as well as benefit economies, says new World Health Organization Europe report.

Although pricing policies and taxation are among the most effective measures that policy-makers can use to address alcohol harms, they remain underutilized across the WHO European region.

Alison Douglas, chief executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland, said: “Alcohol Focus Scotland welcomes today’s report from the World Health Organization Europe recommending that countries follow Scotland’s lead and adopt minimum unit pricing (MUP) to tackle the huge harm alcohol causes across Europe.

“So far in Scotland we have seen encouraging results with a significant reduction in how much we are drinking since the introduction of the policy, a small decrease in hospital admissions from liver disease, and an initial decline in deaths from alcohol. Importantly, few unintended consequences have been found.

“Now we need to ensure the policy is optimised. The effects of 50p per unit have been eroded by inflation and we urgently need to increase the price to save and improve more lives.

 [Read the report.](#)

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## **Contents unknown: How alcohol labelling still fails consumers**

Action on alcohol labelling is urgently needed, says new report from the Alcohol Health Alliance (AHA).

The AHA and member organisations, including Alcohol Focus Scotland, examined 369 alcohol products across the UK to find out what information is included on labels.

The study found that:

- 65% included the current CMO low-risk drinking guidelines
- 20% provided a full ingredient list
- 5% provided full nutritional information

The report recommends that the UK government step in and require alcohol products to display this information on the label.

 [Read the study](#) and the AHA's recommendations.

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## RESEARCH

### **Monitoring and Evaluating Scotland's Alcohol Strategy (MESAS) - Monitoring Report 2022**

"Reducing how much we drink must remain a priority" says Alcohol Focus Scotland chief executive, Alison Douglas.

In 2021, 9.4 litres of pure alcohol were sold per adult. This averages to 18.1 units per adult per week - substantially higher than the Chief Medical Officers' low-risk weekly drinking guidelines of maximum 14 units per week.

The report also highlights the stark inequality that exists. In the 10% least deprived areas of Scotland, rates of alcohol-specific deaths were nearly five times higher, and alcohol-related hospital stays were nearly eight times higher, than in the 10% most deprived.

To reduce preventable alcohol harms, AFS recommends that the Scottish Government:

- optimises minimum unit pricing (MUP), bringing it at least in line with inflation
- restricts alcohol marketing
- reduces alcohol availability

- increases investment in support and treatment services

 [Read the report.](#)

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## RESEARCH

### **Evaluating the impact of minimum unit pricing (MUP) in Scotland on people who are drinking at harmful levels**

No clear evidence of a change in consumption or severity of dependence among those drinking at harmful levels or people with alcohol dependence following the introduction of MUP says new study.

Dependent drinkers were not the target of MUP, but researching its effects on them adds to the body of evidence around MUP. There was little evidence found of other negative consequences in this population following the introduction of MUP, such as increased crime, a shift to the use of illicit substances or acute withdrawal. People with alcohol dependence were also found to have a limited awareness and understanding of MUP and reported receiving little information or support before its introduction.

The lead researcher, Professor John Holmes, notes that the research must be understood in the context of previous evidence. For example, previous research shows that MUP reduced alcohol sales, particularly for households which were previously purchasing the most alcohol.

 [Read the study.](#)

 [Find out more in a Twitter thread by the lead author, Professor John Holmes.](#)

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 **CONSULTATIONS**


 **CONSULTATIONS**

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## AFS Response to New Cancer Strategy

Alcohol Focus Scotland provided **written evidence** to the Scottish Government consultation on the new cancer strategy. Alcohol is one of the largest modifiable risk factors for cancer in Scotland, and up to 40% of cancers can be prevented through reducing harmful habits, such as alcohol consumption, in line with Scotland's wider public health priorities. Increasing cancer prevention in the short term will allow resources to be spent on the other aspects of the cancer journey in the long term. To help reduce harmful alcohol consumption and reduce cancers caused by alcohol, AFS recommends:

- 1) Maintaining and uprating minimum unit pricing (MUP)
- 2) Banning or restricting alcohol marketing
- 3) Raising public awareness through mandating alcohol labelling

 **For more information on the link between alcohol and cancer, read our full response.**

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## AFS Response to Online Advertising Programme

Alcohol Focus Scotland provided **written evidence** to the UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport consultation on the online advertising programme. The consultation puts forward several options for changing the regulation of online advertising. The evidence around marketing's persuasiveness is clear. Children and young people are even more susceptible to alcohol marketing, with evidence showing that exposure to alcohol advertising decreases the age at which they start drinking and also increases their consumption. People with or at risk of alcohol problems are also triggered by marketing's effects. Unrestricted online marketing fails to limit these groups' exposure. AFS supports introducing statutory regulation.

 **Read our response.**



## **POLICY**

### **75<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly adopts the WHO Global Alcohol Action Plan**

Public health leaders from around the world agreed to adopt the WHO Global Alcohol Action Plan, making the reduction of harmful alcohol use a public health priority.

Harmful alcohol use causes approximately 3 million deaths each year, while the overall burden of alcohol-related disease and injury remains staggeringly high. Ten years after the implementation of the WHO Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, WHO regions have developed and implemented alcohol policies unevenly, with resources and capacities failing to match the issue's magnitude. Therefore, the WHO Executive Board has called for accelerated action to reduce the harmful use of alcohol.

 [Read more from WHO.](#)

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## RESEARCH

### **The Ubiquitous Experience of Alcohol Industry Involvement in Science**

Contact with industry is unavoidable for alcohol researchers says new study.

The study, published in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol, aimed to explore the experience of researchers who had no relationship with the alcohol industry, including how industry involvement in alcohol science more broadly had impacted their research work. Researchers from the University of York conducted semi-structured interviews with senior researchers working on alcohol policy who had not received any form of payment from the alcohol industry or performed any unpaid work for alcohol industry

## RESEARCH

### **The public health playbook: ideas for challenging the corporate playbook**

Public health actors need their own strategies to counter the corporate playbook and advance health and wellbeing.

The corporate playbook consists of a range of coordinated and sophisticated strategies commercial actors use to protect business interests, many of which come at the expense of public health.

Published in The Lancet, the researchers propose an initial eight strategies for this public health playbook:

- expand public health training and coalitions



companies.

The researchers concluded that despite not working with industry, contact is unavoidable as the alcohol industry extensively monitors research and researchers through conferences and policy-related events.

 [Read the study.](#)


 [Read a summary by the lead author, Dr Gemma Mitchell.](#)

- increase public sector resources
- link with and learn from social movements to foster collective solidarity
- protect public health advocates from industry threats
- develop and implement rigorous conflict of interest safeguards
- monitor and expose corporate activities,
- debunk corporate arguments
- leverage diverse commercial interests.

 [Find out more.](#)

**ALCOHOL  
FOCUS  
SCOTLAND**

 166 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LW

 0141 572 6700

 [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)

 [@alcoholfocus](https://twitter.com/alcoholfocus)

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## Health campaigners call on Scottish Government to regulate alcohol packaging

New research from the University of Stirling has highlighted how alcohol packaging appeals to young people and captures their attention.

Current drinkers aged 18 to 35 were asked about a range of alcoholic products in focus groups. They recalled products that appeared different, interesting, or aesthetically pleasing. Some reported buying products solely due to the appeal of their packaging.

The participants discussed seeing alcohol packaging in different settings – typically shops and drinking venues – and via marketing, particularly advertising. They frequently recalled seeing it featured in the media – with most reporting exposure on television, in movies, on social media and the internet.

Alison Douglas, Chief Executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland, said: “To turn the tide of alcohol-related harm we need to introduce measures to restrict and regulate all forms of alcohol marketing, in line with World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations. Mandating health warnings on alcohol products would help to counter the attractiveness of packaging and address current low levels of knowledge of alcohol harm.”



**Find out more.**



**Access the study.**



**Read a Twitter thread by the lead author, Daniel Jones.**



## UPDATE

### Young people expose harmful industries' "dark marketing" tactics

Young people identified 5169 instances of "dark marketing" for harmful products, including alcohol.

"Dark marketing" is targeted marketing which appears only to specific people via social media, using data points such as gender, socio-economic status, and location. These ads are not published on advertiser social media accounts and so are visible only to targeted individuals, making them difficult to track and regulate.

The new study from Queensland University, commissioned by VicHealth, recruited 204 young people aged 16 to 25 who took screenshots of the advertisements that appeared on their social media feeds across a two-week period. The researchers found that 97% of the ads seen and shared by the young people were "dark" to some degree.

Fifty-four participants were aged 16-17 and 67% of them were targeted with alcohol ads. The young people described dark marketing as "manipulative", "creepy", and "annoying", with 81% of participants calling for a reduction and regulation around the advertisements from unhealthy industries they see on social media.

VicHealth is calling on the Australian government to legislate higher standards to protect children and young people from the marketing of harmful products.

 [Read more.](#)

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## House of Lords calls for MUP in England

UK Ministers have been asked to review the impact of minimum unit pricing (MUP) in Scotland and Wales in a report on the UK's alcohol licensing system.

The report highlights research demonstrating a reduction in alcohol sales since MUP was implemented in Scotland in 2018 and in Wales in 2020 by 7.7% and 8.6% respectively.

The committee recommends that a formal review should assess the benefit of implementing MUP in England and should be published within one year after publication of the Scottish Ministerial review on MUP in Scotland.

 **Read the House of Lords report.**

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## Differential impact of minimum unit pricing on alcohol consumption between Scottish men and women: controlled interrupted time series analysis

Compared with England, Scottish respondents reported a 6.2% drop in alcohol consumption associated with MUP according to a study published in the BMJ Open.

Reductions were larger for women than for men and were greater among heavier drinkers than for lighter drinkers, except for the 5% of heaviest drinking men for whom an increase in consumption was found. Secondary before-and-after analyses found that reductions in consumption were greater among older respondents and those living in less deprived areas. The introduction of MUP was not associated with a reduction in consumption among younger men and men living in more deprived areas.

 **Read the study.**

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## Exploring the effects of COVID-19 restrictions on wellbeing across different styles of lockdown

Tight lockdown restrictions in Scotland led to more unhealthy behaviours compared to the less rigid approach taken by Japan, according to a joint study from the University of the West of Scotland and the University of Tsukuba in Japan.

In both Scotland and Japan, a period of self-isolation was associated with an increase in alcohol consumption and a change to an unhealthier diet. Negative changes to health behaviours were typically associated with poorer mental wellbeing and isolation. Japanese participants reported more negative mood but not isolation, despite the less-restrictive lockdown.

Alison Douglas, Chief Executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland said, "It is concerning, yet not surprising to see that lockdown restrictions led to increased unhealthy behaviours in Scotland. It has not been an easy few years for anyone, and during lockdowns many of us were drinking more due to the loss of routine, added stress and anxiety as well as social isolation."



**Find out more.**



**Read the study.**



## Stakeholder views of current laws surrounding alcohol at UK football matches: Is it a case of using a 'sledgehammer to crack a nut'?

Most stakeholders support review of alcohol laws at UK football stadia but concerns persist.

Currently, football fans in England can purchase alcohol which cannot be consumed within view of the pitch, in comparison to Scotland where alcohol sales are prohibited at football venues, apart from within hospitality settings.

A new study from the University of Stirling found that stakeholders believe current laws cause unintended consequences, such as fans in Scotland arriving late in large numbers, and suggested that club revenues could increase if alcohol sale restrictions were eased. However, others said they felt that ‘a break in drinking’ on matchdays was positive, and that any easing would present a significant risk, as greater alcohol sales would mean continuous and higher alcohol consumption by some fans.

The study considered the existing laws in focus groups with football fans and through engaging with stakeholders such as government and police representatives.

 **Find out more.**



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## **CONSULTATIONS**

### **Safety at Major Sporting Events inquiry**

The UK Parliament Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee has launched an inquiry on safety at major sporting events.

As part of the inquiry, the Committee will also examine the effectiveness of legislation concerning football, including the issues of safe standing and alcohol consumption at matches, and whether there need to be changes to regulations governing fans at matches.

The inquiry closes on 8 September.

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 Find out more.

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## CONSULTATIONS

### Pre-budget scrutiny call for views

A number of Scottish Parliament subject committees are undertaking pre-budget scrutiny with the aim of influencing the Scottish Government's thinking when preparing its forthcoming budget.

 Find out more and respond to the committees' call for views:

- **Finance and Public Administration Committee** – by 19 August
- **Health, Social Care and Sport Committee** – by 24 August
- **COVID-19 Recovery Committee** – by 9 September



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## RESEARCH

### Solitary alcohol use in adolescence predicts alcohol problems in adulthood: A 17-year longitudinal study in a large national sample of US high school students

The study, published in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, found that solitary alcohol use in adolescence and young adulthood was associated with binge drinking and increased the risk of alcohol use disorder (AUD) symptoms at age 35, particularly among women.

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 Access the study.

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August 2022

## UPDATE

# Alcohol-specific deaths increase again in 2021

**Figures** published by the National Records of Scotland showed that 1,245 people died from alcohol-specific causes in Scotland in 2021.

The number of deaths was 5% (55) higher than 2020 and is the highest number since 2008. Concerningly, deaths from alcohol were 5.6 times as frequent in the most deprived areas of Scotland compared to the least deprived areas.

In response to the figures, Alison Douglas, chief executive of Alcohol Focus Scotland, said, "The high number of deaths from alcohol in 2021 is devastating and comes on top of a substantial increase in 2020. Each of these 1,245 deaths is a life cut tragically short, and leaves behind family members and friends suffering their loss. These impacts are experienced unequally with many more people dying in our poorest communities. We seem to almost accept this toll as inevitable, but we should not; each death can be prevented."

 [Read more about the alcohol-specific deaths](#)

## RESEARCH

## The long-term effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on people's drinking habits

Two recent modelling studies conducted in England have highlighted the substantial impact that changes in drinking patterns during the pandemic have had and will continue to have on people's health. Evidence indicates that drinking habits polarised during the pandemic, with lighter drinkers having decreased and heavier drinkers having increased their consumption. Of major concern is the increase in high-risk and harmful drinking observed in England, which has sustained over the entirety of the pandemic.

Both studies predict that these impacts will continue to be felt into the future, even in the best case scenario where drinking returns to pre-pandemic levels from 2022 onwards. One study estimated an increase in alcohol-attributable hospital admissions of up to 7.9%, an increase in alcohol-attributable deaths of up to 20.1%, and a rise in alcohol-related costs to the NHS of up to £5.2bn over 20 years.

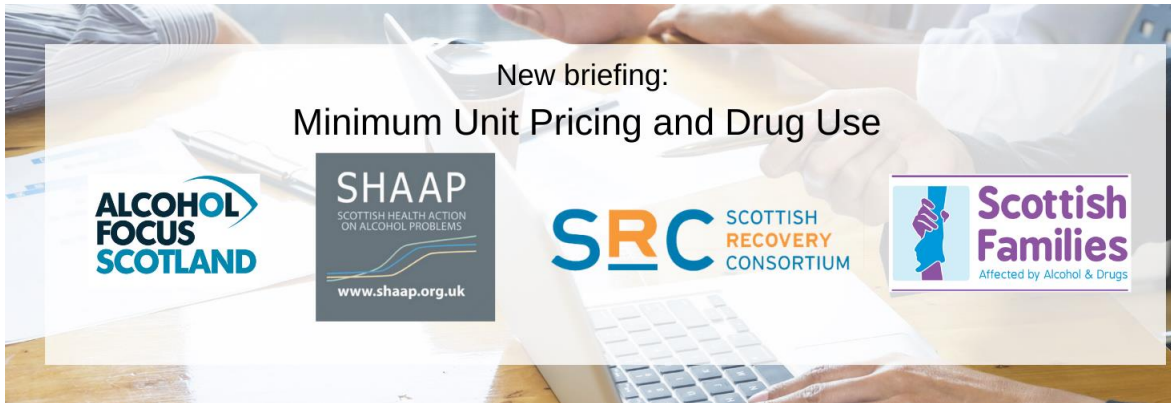
Although it can take 20 years to see the full effects of changes in alcohol consumption, such as for cancers, the effects of the pandemic on people's drinking habits have already tragically translated into increased harm. Alcohol-specific deaths in England increased by 20% in 2020 as compared to 2021. Scotland has seen similar increases, with a 17% increase in alcohol-specific deaths in 2020, followed by a further 5% increase in 2021 (English 2021 figures are yet to be released).

Read the studies:

 [\*\*The COVID hangover from the Institute of Alcohol Studies and Health Lumen\*\*](#)

 [\*\*Modelling the impact of changes in alcohol consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic on future alcohol-related harm in England from the University of Sheffield\*\*](#)

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## Minimum Unit Pricing and Drug Use

Scottish health charities have responded to media headlines claiming that minimum unit pricing (MUP) has increased drug use in Scotland and is contributing to high levels of drug deaths.

**Alcohol Focus Scotland**, **Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP)**, **Scottish Recovery Consortium**, and **Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs** have published a joint briefing to highlight independent evaluation research and other relevant information on alcohol and drug deaths in Scotland.



## ScotHealthCPG

The next meeting of the cross-party group on Improving Scotland's Health will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 at 12:30 BST.

This meeting is only for registered members who have completed a disclosure of interest (DOI) form and for interested MSPs. Registered members will receive an email with the Zoom registration link.

✉ If you would like to become a member of the CPG please contact [CEO@ashscotland.org.uk](mailto:CEO@ashscotland.org.uk)

🔗 [Find out more about the CPG](#)

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## Recovery Walk Scotland

Alcohol Focus Scotland will be attending this year's Recovery Walk Scotland which takes place in Paisley on Saturday 24th September. The theme this year is "Connected and Caring".

The annual event honours those we have lost, reminds us why recovery is so important, and helps us build connections and develop support networks.

Alcohol Focus Scotland will be part of the festival village. We are looking forward to sharing our work and highlighting the different ways in which people can get

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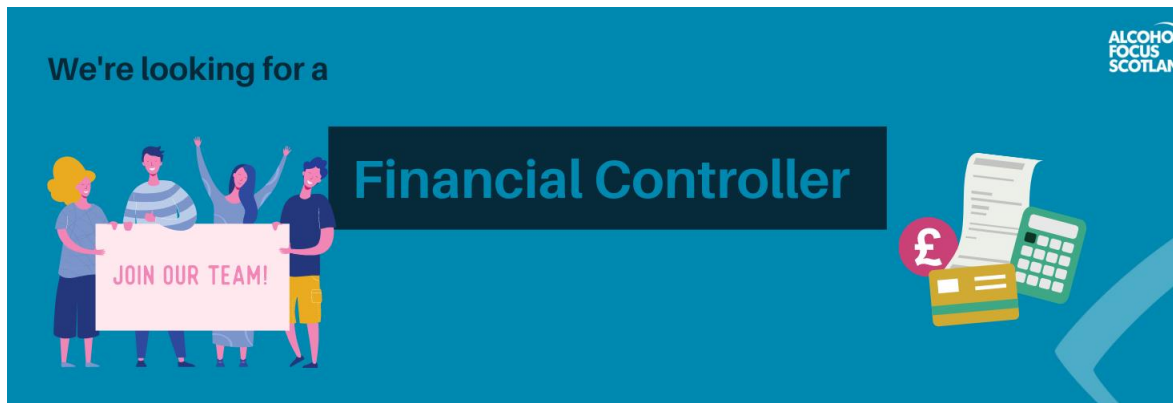
involved.

With lots of fun and games on offer, we hope you'll stop by for a chat with Marc, our Engagement and Partnership Coordinator.

[!\[\]\(d84e7ea36f695d92cb39ec32c307ac93\_img.jpg\) \*\*Find out more and book your tickets from Scottish Recovery Consortium\*\*](#)

[!\[\]\(feabb98897b440bc8695a03336a6e2df\_img.jpg\) \*\*To find out more about our engagement work, contact Marc Buchanan\*\*](#)

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## Vacancy: Financial Controller

Alcohol Focus Scotland is hiring a part-time Financial Controller.

We are looking for a candidate with:

- An accountancy qualification (CA, ACCA, CIMA or equivalent)
- A minimum of 3 years relevant experience
- Experience in supervising and managing staff

Benefits include:

- A flexible work pattern
- Hybrid working
- The satisfaction of working with a skilled and dedicated team to make change happen

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## Call for improved alcohol labelling as new study reveals 'better-for-you' claims may mislead consumers

People have a right to know what is in their drink and to not be misled by labelling.

A new study from Cancer Council Victoria has found that of Australian adults who had drunk alcohol in the past 12 months, 75% believed that health-oriented marketing claims, such as 'natural', 'no added sugar', and 'low calorie', meant that an alcoholic drink was better for them than a product without these claims.

Jane Martin, Executive Manager of the Obesity Policy Coalition said that higher standards needed to be set for alcohol labelling to ensure consumers aren't being misled with promotional claims and statements. Alcohol labelling is currently under consideration by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

 [Find out more](#)



## Mixed messages about alcohol and breastfeeding

Two-thirds of Australian women who breastfeed feel they did not fully understand the risks of drinking alcohol while breastfeeding, according to a Kantar Public study commissioned by the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE).



93% of women surveyed who had consumed alcohol while breastfeeding had employed some harm minimisation strategy; however, many of these were ineffective.

The research highlights the need for more information on alcohol and breastfeeding, said FARE CEO Caterina Giorgi.

 [Read more](#)

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## RESEARCH

### **The global burden of cancer attributable to risk factors, 2010–19: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019**

Smoking, drinking alcohol, and being overweight increase people's risk of cancer, and cause almost half (44.4%) of all cancer deaths worldwide, according to a Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study in the Lancet.

The GBD measures the health lost from hundreds of diseases, injuries, and risk factors, to improve health systems and reduce inequalities.

Half of all male cancer deaths in 2019 (2.88m) were due to these risk factors, compared with more than a third of all female cancer deaths (1.58m).

 [Find out more](#)

 [Read the study](#)

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## RESEARCH

### **The socioeconomic gradient of alcohol use: an analysis of nationally representative survey data from 55 low-income and middle-income countries**

According to new research published in The Lancet, urgent alcohol control policies and interventions are needed in low-income countries and low-middle-income countries to reduce harmful heavy episodic drinking, while alcohol policies need to be targeted at socially disadvantaged groups in upper-middle-income countries.

The study found that among males, the highest prevalence of both current drinking and heavy episodic drinking was found in lower-middle-income countries. Among females, the prevalence of current drinking was highest in upper-middle-income countries, and the prevalence of heavy episodic drinking was highest in low-income countries.

 [Read the study](#)

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## CONSULTATIONS

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

Alcohol Focus Scotland provided written evidence to the Scottish Government's consultation on a new

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## Suicide Prevention Strategy

Alcohol Focus Scotland has responded to the Scottish Government's consultation on a new suicide prevention strategy and action plan.

We believe that the development of the new suicide prevention strategy and action plan brings new opportunities to account for the links between alcohol and suicide, and have highlighted a number of areas where the proposals could be strengthened.

AFS shares the Scottish Government's vision of a Scotland where suicide is preventable, and where support is available to anyone contemplating suicide and to those who have lost a loved one to suicide. Suicide prevention is everyone's business.

 [Read our response](#)

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## Pre-budget scrutiny call for views

Alcohol Focus Scotland provided written evidence to two parliamentary calls for views on Pre-Budget Scrutiny, highlighting that alcohol causes increasingly significant health harms to the people of Scotland and costs the taxpayer billions

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each year.

We believe the Scottish Government should use its fiscal powers to raise revenue from the sale of alcohol to support the COVID-19 recovery and fund public services (making the ‘polluter pay’), including improved recovery-oriented services.

Additionally, the Scottish Government should focus on implementing policies to reduce alcohol harms and subsequently lower the cost of alcohol harms, such as increasing the price of alcohol, reducing its availability, and controlling how it is marketed.

Read our responses:

 **Finance and Public Administration Committee**

 **Health, Social Care and Sport Committee**









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**To: Renfrewshire Licensing Forum**

**On: 12 September 2022**

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**Report by: Clerk**

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**Heading: Dates for Future Meetings**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report details proposed arrangements for meetings of the Renfrewshire Licensing Forum until September 2023.
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**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Forum considers and approves the dates for future meetings of the Forum as detailed in the report; and
- 2.2. That it be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Conveners of the Forum and the Licensing Board to determine a date for the Joint meeting with the Licensing Board.
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**3. Background**

- 3.1 In terms of the Constitution approved at the meeting of the Forum held on 2 October 2007, there is a requirement for the Forum to meet no less than four times per year and for one of these meetings to be a joint meeting with Renfrewshire Licensing Board.

- 3.2. It has been the custom and practice that the Forum meet on a quarterly basis, with meetings being held during February or March, April or May, August or September and October or November.
- 3.3. It is proposed that meetings of the Forum be held on:-
- Monday 6 February 2023;  
Monday 22 May 2023; and  
Monday 11 September 2023.

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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community Planning** - None
- 4 **Legal** – None
- 5 **Property/Assets** - None
- 6 **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website
- 8 **Health & Safety** - None.
- 9 **Procurement** - None.
- 10 **Risk** - None.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None
- 12 **CoSLA Position** – n/a



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Author            Paul Shiach – Committee Services Officer  
(tel 0141 618 7103 – email [paul.shiach@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.shiach@renfrewshire.gov.uk))

