



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Dear Maree,

Update on implementation of Minimum Unit Pricing of alcohol

At its meeting on 1 March 2022, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee plans to take evidence from key stakeholders on tackling alcohol harms.

As part of this session, we hope to be able to explore the impact of Scottish Government policy on Minimum Unit Pricing of alcohol in tackling these harms.

To help inform the session, I am therefore writing to request an update on implementation of this policy and any available evidence on what impact it has had in reducing problem alcohol use.

As you will be aware, the Scottish Government originally made a commitment to review the policy and the 50 pence price level in May 2020, two years after its introduction. As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, this review has yet to be carried out.

As you will also be aware, the legislation enacting Minimum Unit Pricing includes a 'sunset clause'. This requires the Scottish Government to evaluate the policy's effect five years after its entry into force and to report to the Scottish Parliament, whereupon MSPs will have the opportunity to vote on whether or not to continue with the policy. This sunset clause will apply in May next year.

In this context, it would be helpful if the Scottish Government, as part of the requested update, could set out its current plans for evaluating and reviewing the Minimum Unit Pricing policy.

To enable the Committee to factor its contents into our preparations for the planned evidence session on 1 March, I would be grateful to receive a response **no later than Friday, 18 February**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Martin MSP
Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee