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Clare Haughey  
Convener  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
The Scottish Parliament

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20 September 2023

Dear Clare,

## MINIMUM UNIT PRICING OF ALCOHOL

I am pleased to announce that today we are laying before Parliament our report on the operation and effect of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) in its first five years.

Our report considers evidence on the operation and effect of MUP over the five years between its implementation in May 2018 up to end April 2023. The report contains information on the impact that MUP has had with reference to a range of themes and groups.

This builds on Public Health Scotland's [final evaluation report](#) which was published on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. That report concluded that, overall, the evidence supported that MUP has had a positive impact on health outcomes, namely a reduction in alcohol-attributable deaths and hospital admissions, particularly in men and those living in the most deprived areas, and therefore contributes to addressing alcohol-related health inequalities.

The Scottish Government report concludes that the policy aim of MUP has been met. Today we will launch a public consultation on whether MUP should continue beyond 30 April 2024 and, if so, at what price.

The consultation (which closes on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November) builds on Ministerial engagement with business and health stakeholders which has taken place throughout the summer and is supported by an interim Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment which has also been published today.

Following the consultation process, if the proposals are taken forward, secondary legislation will be laid before Parliament in early 2024.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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I hope the Committee finds this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**Elena Whitham MSP**

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