

Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy
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Convener of Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
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19 February 2024

Dear Clare,

MINIMUM UNIT PRICING OF ALCOHOL

I'm writing to you in my capacity as Minister for Drugs and Alcohol, a role I have taken over from my colleague Elena Whitham who I wish to thank for all her previous work to tackle the harms caused by drugs and alcohol in Scotland. I am privileged to have been asked to continue this work and look forward to working with the committee on this issue.

The Deputy First Minister wrote to you on 8 February 2024, outlining Cabinet's decision to lay secondary legislation to continue the policy of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP), and to set the price going forward to 65 pence per unit from 30 September 2024. I am writing to confirm that the Orders were laid today in Scottish Parliament, each of the Orders are accompanied by a policy note which details the Government position on why the legislation is required.

As well as laying the Orders, I'm also pleased to inform the Committee of the publication of the following documents on the Scottish Government's website:

- Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment
- Equality Impact Assessment
- Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment
- Final Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment
- Island Communities Impact Assessment

These impact assessments outline the different considerations we have made on the potential impact of MUP going forward, and their effect on different populations in Scotland.

I know Committee members will agree it is vital Scotland continues to take decisive action to prevent ill health, including action on tackling alcohol-related harm. I am, of course, very happy to make an appearance at the committee as it considers the Orders.

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
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Yours sincerely,

Christina McKelvie

CHRISTINA MCKELVIE

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