



## HEALTH AND SPORT COMMITTEE

### ALCOHOL (LICENSING, PUBLIC HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE) (SCOTLAND) BILL – RESULTS OF PUBLIC SURVEY

#### Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to describe the results of a public survey of views on the Alcohol (Licensing, Public Health and Criminal Justice) (Scotland) Bill. The Committee agreed to undertake a short, internet-based survey to gather views on the main provisions of the Bill at its meeting on 1 September 2015.

#### The survey

The survey was promoted via a news release and on social media. Survey participants were self-selecting. **The results cannot therefore be considered to be representative of the population generally, or of specific groups.**

The survey ran from 7 to 28 September 2015. Participants were invited to read statements about the Bill's provisions and indicate their views on a scale between strongly agree and strongly disagree. They also had the opportunity to provide some demographic information about themselves and to make any general comments.







A total of 543 responses were gathered. The results are described below.

#### Demographic information

Participants provided the following demographic information.

Postcode area				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	AB postcode area		8.80%	47
2	DD postcode area		7.49%	40
3	DG postcode area		4.87%	26
4	EH postcode area		24.16%	129
5	FK postcode area		5.43%	29
6	G postcode area		18.35%	98
7	HS postcode area		0.56%	3
8	IV postcode area		2.43%	13
9	KA postcode area		4.49%	24
10	KW postcode area		0.56%	3
11	KY postcode area		4.68%	25
12	ML postcode area		3.18%	17
13	PA postcode area		5.81%	31
14	PH postcode area		2.25%	12
15	TD postcode area		1.87%	10
16	ZE postcode area		0.37%	2
17	Rest of the United Kingdom		4.12%	22
18	Outwith the United Kingdom		0.56%	3
			answered	534
			skipped	9

Gender				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Male		44.23%	234
2	Female		55.77%	295
			answered	529
			skipped	14

Age			Response Percent	Response Total
1	12-17		7.66%	41
2	18-24		2.80%	15
3	25-34		11.59%	62
4	35-49		34.02%	182
5	50-64		37.20%	199
6	65+		6.73%	36
			answered	535
			skipped	8






## Views

There was majority support for eight of the Bill's ten proposals. The exceptions were proposals to prevent licensing boards requiring a higher age limit than 18 for off-sales and on notification of an offender's GP. The proposals with the strongest support were the ban on advertising near venues used by children and the ban on sponsorship of events targeted at children.






The table below indicates the combined levels of support (ie. those who agreed and those who strongly agreed) for each of the Bill's main provisions.

Measure	Level of support
Banning alcohol sponsorship of events targeted at children	83%
Banning alcohol advertising near places used by children	78%
Drinking banning orders	75%
Container marking in off-sales	72%
Alcohol awareness training as an alternative to a fixed penalty fine	71%
Banning alcoholic drinks containing high levels of caffeine	66%
Minimum pricing for packages containing more than one alcohol product.	60%
Community involvement in licensing decisions	58%
Notification of an offender's GP	43%
Preventing age discrimination in off-sales	33%






**1. The Bill would ban the sale of larger multipacks of alcoholic drinks at a price lower than the average price per can or bottle of any smaller multipacks also for sale in that shop. So, for example, a shop which sold packs of four beers would not be able to sell a twelve pack for less per can than the four pack.**

			<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
1	Strongly Agree		36.83%	200
2	Agree		22.65%	123
3	Neither agree or disagree		10.31%	56
4	Disagree		17.68%	96
5	Strongly disagree		12.52%	68
			answered	543
			skipped	0






**2. The Bill would ban the sale of ready-mixed alcoholic drinks with high levels of caffeine.**

			<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
1	Strongly agree		42.36%	230
2	Agree		23.57%	128
3	Neither agree nor disagree		14.92%	81
4	Disagree		10.13%	55
5	Strongly disagree		9.02%	49
			answered	543
			skipped	0






**3. The Bill would prevent licensing boards from imposing age-related conditions (beyond the standard restriction banning sales to under-18s) on particular off-licences - for example, under the Bill a licensing board could not impose a condition requiring an off-licence to sell only to those over 21.**

			<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
1	Strongly agree		12.52%	68
2	Agree		19.89%	108
3	Neither agree nor disagree		25.97%	141
4	Disagree		24.13%	131
5	Strongly disagree		17.50%	95
			answered	543
			skipped	0






**4. The Bill would allow licensing boards, if asked by the police, to make shops mark alcohol containers in order to identify where underage drinkers get their alcohol.**

			<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
1	Strongly Agree		35.73%	194
2	Agree		36.28%	197
3	Neither agree nor disagree		8.47%	46
4	Disagree		9.94%	54
5	Strongly disagree		9.58%	52
			answered	543
			skipped	0






**5. The Bill would double the length of time people have to comment on an application for a licence to sell alcohol and, in some cases, would require people in a larger area to be consulted.**

			<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
1	Strongly Agree		25.78%	140
2	Agree		32.41%	176
3	Neither agree nor disagree		24.13%	131
4	Disagree		11.05%	60
5	Strongly disagree		6.63%	36
			answered	543
			skipped	0






**6. The Bill would ban most forms of alcohol advertising within 200 metres of schools, nurseries and children's play parks.**

			<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
1	Strongly Agree		51.93%	282
2	Agree		25.60%	139
3	Neither agree nor disagree		9.02%	49
4	Disagree		6.63%	36
5	Strongly disagree		6.81%	37
			answered	543
			skipped	0






**7. The Bill would ban alcohol advertising at sports or cultural events targeted mainly at under-18s.**

			<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
1	Strongly Agree		58.75%	319
2	Agree		23.94%	130
3	Neither agree nor disagree		7.55%	41
4	Disagree		4.97%	27
5	Strongly disagree		4.79%	26
			answered	543
			skipped	0






**8. The Bill would make it possible for the courts to ban someone from pubs and other premises for up to two years if they engage in criminal or disorderly behaviour when drunk.**

			<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Total</b>
1	Strongly Agree		44.20%	240
2	Agree		30.76%	167
3	Neither agree nor disagree		11.42%	62
4	Disagree		9.58%	52
5	Disagree strongly		4.05%	22
			answered	543
			skipped	0

**9. The Bill would allow the police to give someone who has committed an alcohol-related offence the option of attending an alcohol awareness course as an alternative to paying a fine.**

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly Agree		33.70%	183
2	Agree		37.02%	201
3	Neither agree nor disagree		14.00%	76
4	Disagree		8.66%	47
5	Strongly disagree		6.63%	36
			answered	543
			skipped	0

**10. The Bill would require a court to notify an offender's GP if being drunk was a contributory factor in committing an offence.**

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly Agree		18.97%	103
2	Agree		23.76%	129
3	Neither agree nor disagree		21.36%	116
4	Disagree		20.26%	110
5	Strongly disagree		15.65%	85
			answered	543
			skipped	0

## Comments

Survey participants also had the opportunity to provide comments. 160 of 543 respondents did so, although not all of these comments related to the Bill's proposals.

Participants' comments were wide-ranging, with no particular trends emerging. The proposal on notification of offenders' GPs received the highest number of comments, with most questioning or challenging this measure. It is clear that many of those commenting were GPs themselves.

Comments also suggested that there was support for education on alcohol issues. There was also support for greater restrictions on advertising and sponsorship than those proposed in the Bill.

Some of the comments indicated that there was support for action in areas not covered by the Bill. These included:

- restrictions on where and when alcohol is sold to reduce availability – for example, by selling it only in specialist off-licences which sold nothing else,
- measures to make licensing boards more transparent about their decisions and more accessible to ordinary members of the public, and
- taking steps to make drinking in pubs more attractive than buying from off-sales premises, because drinking in pubs was perceived as safer.

**Abigail Bremner**

**SPICe Research**

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Note: Committee briefing papers are provided by SPICe for the use of Scottish Parliament committees and clerking staff. They provide focused information or respond to specific questions or areas of interest to committees and are not intended to offer comprehensive coverage of a subject area.

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