1 October 2018

SETTING THE MINIMUM UNIT PRICE OF ALCOHOL

Consultation by the Welsh Government

Deadline for responses: 16 November 2018
All comments to: policywales@bma.org.uk

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

Following the passage earlier this year of the Public Health (Minimum Price for Alcohol) (Wales) Act 2018, the Welsh Government has launched a consultation on the level at which the minimum price should initially be set, together with the regulations that will need to be agreed to put it into effect.

The proposal is that the minimum price should be 50p a unit. The Welsh Government says this will target nearly half (47%) of all off-trade alcohol being purchased, and just under half of alcohol purchased by harmful drinkers. They believe this will have a minimal impact on moderate drinkers (affecting just over a fifth of the alcohol purchased by this group), with over half of the anticipated reduction in consumption being accounted for by harmful drinkers.

Subject to the regulations being subsequently approved by the National Assembly, it is proposed that the minimum price would be implemented from the summer of 2019.

Full details of this consultation, including an assessment of why a minimum price of 50p a unit is being proposed, can be found via the following link: https://beta.gov.wales/setting-minimum-unit-price-alcohol

If submitting comments to help inform our response to this consultation, please have regard to the following questions which are posed within the consultation document:

Q1. We invite comments on the draft regulations included in annex one which set out the proposed minimum unit price of 50p.

Q2. If you believe a different level of a minimum unit price should be set, please set out your reasons and any research and evidence to support your view.

Q3. We would like to know your views on the effects that this proposal would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English. What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Q4. Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy could be formulated or changed so as to have: i) positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and ii) no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.
Q5. We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please report them.