

Minimum Unit Pricing

Continuing and optimising a life-saving policy

On 17 April 2024, the Scottish Parliament voted to:

- ✓ Continue MUP beyond the end of April 2024
- ✓ Increase MUP to 65p per unit from 30 September 2024



MUP has achieved its aims of reducing alcohol-related harm



Saved an estimated
156 lives per year
(13.6% reduction)



Averted an estimated
411 hospital
admissions per year
(4.1% reduction)



Reduced inequalities
with the most lives
saved among the 40%
most deprived groups

MUP has achieved these positive health impacts through reduced consumption:



Population consumption reduced by an estimated 3%, driven by a reduction in off-trade alcohol sales



Hazardous and harmful drinking reduced, with people who bought the most alcohol reducing their purchasing the most

“MUP has contributed to saving lives and slowing the increase in alcohol-specific deaths seen across the UK since the pandemic.”

Dr Tara Shivaji
Consultant in Public Health Medicine
Public Health Scotland

- There have been no significant negative impacts on alcohol producers or sellers.
- There is no evidence of widespread social harms, such as increased drug use, illicit alcohol use or impacts on household spending.



MUP was increased to 65p per unit to make good on inflation and proactively react to the public health emergency.

This was supported by more than 80 organisations, including medical bodies, children's charities, and organisations representing people with lived experience of alcohol problems, in Scotland and beyond.

Failure to increase MUP to 65p would have resulted in an estimated 800 more deaths and almost 10,000 additional hospital admissions, at an estimated cost of £11 million to our hospitals and NHS.



What we need next:

- An **automatic uprating mechanism** to link MUP to affordability into the future
- An **alcohol harm prevention levy** on retailers' profits from MUP, to support local action on preventing alcohol harms and improving treatment and recovery support



MUP alone is not enough

The Scottish Government's alcohol strategy contains **20 actions to reduce alcohol consumption and harm** in Scotland, though a **number of these have yet to be fully implemented**.

The Scottish Government should:

- ✓ Introduce statutory restrictions on alcohol marketing to protect children and young people
- ✓ Restrict the display and promotion of alcohol in shops so it is only visible to those wanting to browse or purchase alcohol
- ✓ Improve controls on where, when, and how alcohol is sold
- ✓ Increase investment in the early identification of those at risk of harm
- ✓ Improve person-centred treatment and recovery support



About Alcohol Focus Scotland

Alcohol Focus Scotland (AFS) is the national charity working to prevent and reduce alcohol harm.

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