



4 July 2016

PUBLIC HEALTH MUST PREVAIL OVER BIG BUSINESS

Minimum pricing for alcohol is back in court, four years after the Scottish Parliament voted overwhelmingly to pass the measure. The sad truth is that 4,500 Scots have died of alcohol-related diseases since the Scotch Whisky Association launched its legal challenge in a bid to protect its members' sizeable profits.

We see the devastating effects of cheap, strong alcohol every single day: people's health irreparably damaged; unhappy childhoods and families torn apart; drunkenness and disorder on the streets and in homes; young men with life-changing injuries from drunken assaults; all of this creating a huge, avoidable burden on our GPs, hospitals and emergency services.

This harm is fuelled by strong white ciders and spirits sold for as little as 18p per unit in supermarkets and corner shops. Minimum pricing will raise the price of these very cheap drinks which are favoured by young, vulnerable and harmful drinkers. It won't affect the price of a pint in the pub or a glass of wine with a restaurant meal as these already cost much more than 50p per unit.

Minimum pricing will bring Scotland many benefits – it will help to reduce health inequalities, it will cut alcohol-related hospital admissions and crime and it will save hundreds of lives. We hope that this week the health of the people of Scotland will come before the profits of big business.

Signed by:

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