



26 October 2016

Mr Pierre Pringuet
c/o Scotch Whisky Association
Quartermile 2
2 Lister Square
Edinburgh EH3 9GL

Dear Mr Pringuet and SWA Council members

The Scottish Parliament passed legislation on minimum unit pricing (MUP) four and a half years ago. No MSP voted against it and the policy is widely supported by doctors, social workers, children's charities and the public.

Last Friday the Court of Session ruled, for a second and final time, that MUP is a legal, effective and proportionate measure.

In the time since you began your legal action, minimum unit pricing could have prevented hundreds of Scots from dying and thousands more from suffering alcohol-related ill health, injury or crime.

We support the World Health Organization position that alcohol producers have a limited role in alcohol strategy, restricted to their role as developers, producers, distributors, marketers and sellers of alcoholic beverages. The European Court of Justice ruling confirmed that it was primarily for the state to determine both the level of protection which it wished to afford to its citizens' life and health and the means by which that level of protection could be achieved. That is what the Scottish Parliament did by passing the MUP legislation.

Now is the time for your companies to respect the will of the Scottish Parliament and the Court's decision and, at long last, to drop this ill-judged and damaging legal action.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Douglas".

Alison Douglas, Chief Executive, Alcohol Focus Scotland

Supported by:

continued overleaf

Eric Carlin, Director, Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP)
Jill Vickerman, National Director, BMA Scotland
Dr Andrew Fraser, Chair, Scottish Directors of Public Health

reducing harm caused by alcohol

166 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LW Tel: 0141 572 6700

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The Registered Office is 166 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LW

Christine Duncan, Chief Executive, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs
Professor Sir Ian Gilmore, Chair, Alcohol Health Alliance
Joanna Simons, Chief Executive, Alcohol Concern
Alison Cox, Director for Cancer Prevention, Cancer Research UK
Jackie Brock, Chief Executive, Children in Scotland
Dr Christine Goodall, Co-founder, Medics against Violence
Colin Shevills, Director, Balance
Dr Peter Rice, Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, NHS Tayside
Dr Alastair Cook, Chair, RCPsych in Scotland
Professor Colin Drummond, Chair, Faculty of Addictions, Royal College of Psychiatrists
Professor Sally Casswell, Chair, Global Alcohol Policy Alliance

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