

Duncan McNeil MSP  
Convener  
Health & Sport Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

14 May 2012

Dear Duncan

**ALCOHOL (MINIMUM PRICING) (SCOTLAND) BILL – SPECIFIC MINIMUM PRICE PER UNIT OF ALCOHOL**

I am writing to inform the Committee that I am minded to set the minimum price per unit of alcohol at 50p.

I have come to this decision taking into account relevant factors that have been updated since I last proposed a price per unit of alcohol at 45p in September 2010. These relevant factors include the updated modelling carried out by the University of Sheffield, alcohol sales data, price band data, affordability of alcohol and harm data. In addition, I have taken account of the fact that the earliest the policy is likely to be implemented is April 2013. Taking all of these factors into account, the proposed price that I am announcing today is broadly equivalent to the 45p per unit announced in 2010.

The minimum price per unit would remain at 50p for at least two years following implementation in order to allow the market to react and settle. Thereafter I would propose a policy review would be carried out on a regular basis in order to ensure the minimum price remains proportionate. My intention is that the policy review will be carried out biennially.

I trust you find this information helpful.

**NICOLA STURGEON**